

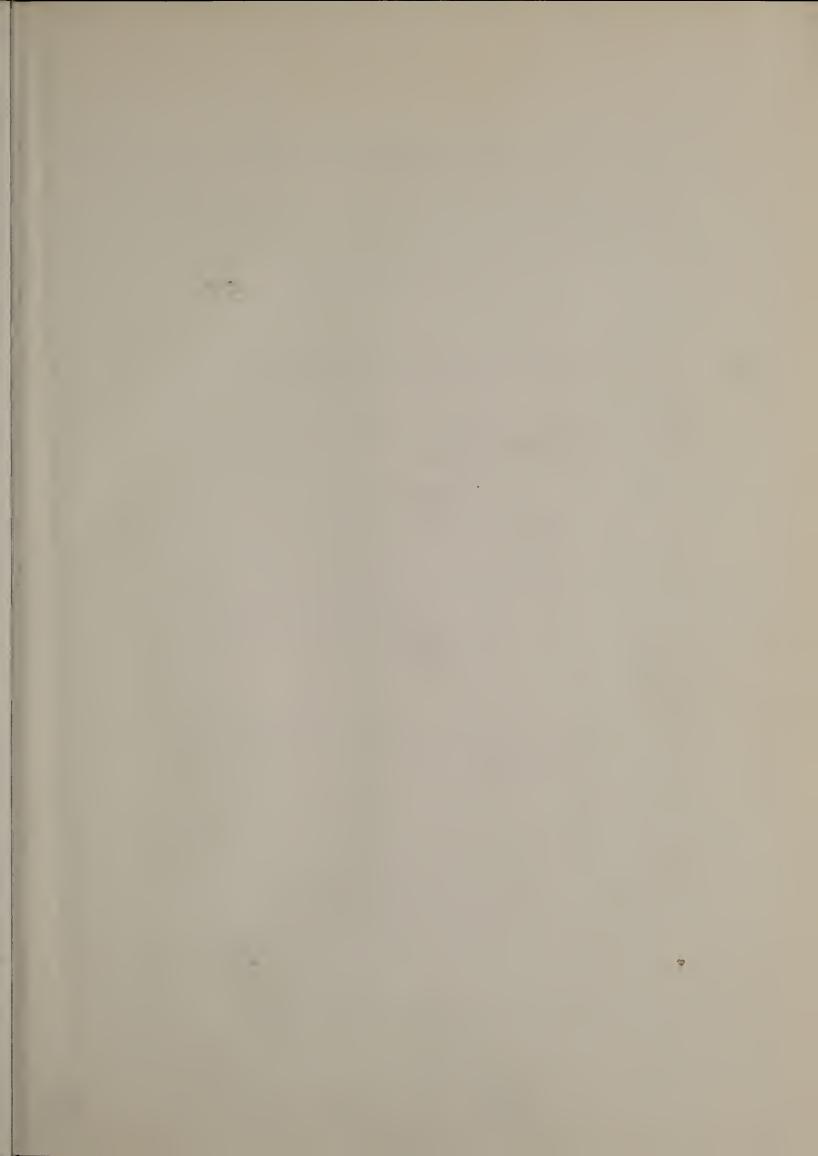
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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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ORANGE COUNTY NEW YORK

A NARRATIVE HISTORY

DESCRIPTIVE OF

Its Places of Colonial and Revolutionary Interest.

Its Historic Old Churches, with Biographies of Their Pastors.

Its Celebrated Horses, with Their Pedigrees and Records.

Its Statesmen. Historians, Poets, Writers and Distinguished People of the Past.

Its Celebrated Taverns of Historic Interest.

"And thereby hangs a tale,"

"They are the abstract and brief Chronicles of the time."
---Shakespeare.

Compiled by
ALMET S. MOFFAT
Washingtonville, N. Y.
1928

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ORABLE COUNTY NEW YORK

A Arrestine History

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Index

CELEBRATED HORSES	72
Alexander's Hambletonian	
Edward Everett	
Pedigree of Rysdyk's Hambletonian	78
Reminiscences of Rysdyk's Hambletonian, Abdallah	
Chief and Old Abdallah	79
Volunteer	84
HISTORIC PLACES OF REVOLUTIONARY AND COLONIAL INTEREST	10
· Sarah Wells Bull	
Uzal Knapp, Revolutionary Soldier.	
Knox Headquarters	
The Temple Where Washington Refused a Crown	
LIST OF AUTHORITIES	
OLD CHURCHES OF ORANGE COUNTY.	
Associate Reformed Church, Little Britain	42
Bethlehem Presbyterian Church	
Blooming Grove Congregational Church	
First Presbyterian Church, Goshen	
First Presbyterian Church of Newburgh	
Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Montgomery	. 29
New Windsor Presbyterian Church	47
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Newburgh	. 48
OLD TAVERNS	. 85
ORANGE COUNTY	. 8
ORANGE COUNTY POETS, STATESMEN, HISTORIANS,	
WRITERS AND MEN OF NOTE	. 50
Ethel Lynn Eliot Beers	. 50
Major Edward Carlisle Boynton	. 67
DeWitt Clinton	. 60
George Clinton	. 59
Joel Tyler Headley	. 68
David Halliday Moffat	. 70
Benjamin Barker Odell	. 66
' Edward Payson Roe	. 69
Edward M. Ruttenbur	
William Henry Seward	. 63
Nathaniel Parker Willis	. 56
PREFACE	. 3



PREFACE

IN PRESENTING this little volume to the public there is no intention on the part of the writer to make any claims of originality or literary excellence. The main purpose in view has been to present in brief form the most important phases and incidents of historic interest relating to early Colonial and Revolutionary times; to record in narrative form the heroic struggles of those early pioneers who built and kept alive those old religious organizations, whose sacred houses of worship have sheltered many generations of honest, sincere people of many religious faiths; to awaken anew the interest and patriotism of those of the present day in the oft-told story of the heroic sacrifices of those who fought and died in the Revolutionary struggle for independence that Democratic Government could be founded and maintained upon the sacred principle that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life. liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Among a people inspired with those high ideals there was naturally brought forth many men and women of great intellectual force, whose public careers and achievements are matters of national historic interest. The statesmen, poets, historians and writers of the past who were natives of Orange County, or who have spent their lives here and achieved a world-wide reputation,

are no inconsiderable number.

In passing it might be timely to state that under Colonial rule one of her native sons was Governor, another Colonial President one term and Lieut.-Governor five terms; four have filled the office of Governor of the State; one of her four Governors represented his state in the United States Senate and later was Secretary of State in the cabinet of President Lincoln, and another was elected Vice-President of the United States. The



names, offices and terms of service of those distinguished men are: George Clinton, Colonial Governor, 1743-1753; Cadwallader Colden, Colonial President, and Lieut.-Gov., 1760-1761; Lieut.-Gov., 1761-1762; 1763-1765; 1769-1770 and 1774-1775; George Clinton, first Governor of the State, 1777-1795; 1801-1804; DeWitt Clinton, Governor, 1817-1822; 1824-1826; William H. Seward, Governor, 1839-1842; Benjamin B. Odell, Governor, 1901-1904.

The list of men and women who have made history in legal, literary, military, business and scientific chan-

nels is a long and illustrious one.

I am well aware of the many omissions and errors incident to the compilation of so small a historical narrative as the present one, and I trust the reader will accord a generous measure of charity for its imperfections. If I have brought to mind recollections of youthful scenes and incidents to the aged, and inspiration and renewed interest and ambitions to the young of the present day in their native county I shall be content, for no fairer land than Orange County can be found in any clime, though one search the world over. To those who have found homes in far-off places from their native county there will always be brought to mind some pleasant picture of her green fields, wooded mountains, lakes, rivers and little brooks that flow through her valleys and vales. In the Town of Blooming Grove, over in the valley of "the Clove" that lies on the west side of the picturesque Schunnemunk range, a few miles from the beautiful little village of Washingtonville, there's

A CROOKED LITTLE BROOK.

I used to fish in that crooked little brook when a boy. Crooked! A corkscrew is as straight as a gunbarrel, compared with this crooked little brook. It rises bigh up in the mountain in a tiny little spring, where the trailing arbutus grows amid the snowbanks in the early Spring and scents the mountain air with its delicate perfume. This crooked little brook lays tribute on a score or more little springs on its way down the mountain, until it has outgrown the swaddling clothes of a rivulet and assumes the dignity of a brook, fit for a trout



to make its home in. It goes wandering through the green meadows as though all the year were balmy Summer and it had nothing to do but kill time and loiter about the green fields in shady nooks.

Crooked! Not a trout with its red and golden hues, or a silver-plated shiner that flashes its glittering scales in the sunlight down in its limpid pools, can tell whether it is swimming up-stream or down. The purple-plumed iron weed and the bending goldenrod that bow to each other in the gentle wind with stately grace across this crooked, singing little brook, do not know whether they are standing on opposite sides, or if they are on the same side, which side it is. All the way across and through the meadows it plays hide-and-seek with itself, boxing the compass in its erratic wanderings every few rods.

When the mountain snows have melted in the early Spring it makes its debut in the meadows when the wind anemones commence blossoming way up in the hills. When the wild flowers put on their brilliant Spring decorations, when the violets open their blue eyes and the buttercups hold forth in all their glory amid the green grasses of the meadows, this crooked little brook seems to sing a sweeter song. Bye and bye the violets close their blue eyes, fade and droop, yet this little brook, never daunted in its lazy, wandering course to the mighty Hudson, on its way to the boundless sea, sings merrily to the wild roses that have come to adorn the meadows and the banks of this crooked little brook in full summer dress, each with its lovely pink bonnet and clusters of buds that nod and bow to all the other wild flowers in the gentle Summer breeze.

Even the birds knew of this beauty spot, and loved it well, for they builded their summer homes in the trees along the banks of this crooked little brook. When the curtain of the night fell they sang their vesper hymns in unison with its babbling water. And oh, what a rare treat it used to be to listen to their sunrise concert. To experience to the full the music of this sunrise concert, it was necessary to get a front seat in a spot where the willows and the maples overhung a bend of the crooked



little brook, a few moments before the first colorful streaks of daylight appeared. When the first streaks of dawn began to disperse the night shadows the grand symphony opened with the carol of the robin piereing the cool morning air. Then followed in rapid succession the fremolo of the chirping sparrow, the clear, sweet whistle of the meadow-lark, the tenor of the song-sparrow, the gentle warble of the wood-thrush, the high-pitched voice of the scarlet tanager, the raucous laugh of the flicker, the sad minor notes of the blue bird, the phoebe and turtle dove. And the concert usually wound up with the explosive shrieks, whistles and cat-calls of that reckless, rollicking roysterer, the blue-jay. And so it continued all the livelong day.

And when the Fall came and the wild flowers had shed their brilliant colors, when the wild rose had thrown away her pink bonnet and put on her little red Winter hood, when the rushes were brown and the colt's foot withered, when the golden rod was gray and the purple iron weed plumed with feathery down, this crooked little brook seemed just as happy as when it emerged from the mountain in the early Spring, although Jack Frost was marching across the gorgeons green meadows and sealing up the waters in the shallow pools.

I used to pause in wonder and amazement in boy-hood days and wish that the years of life would drift along as quiet and peaceful as the cool waters of that crooked little brook; that my days would be as full of frolic and fun as were the days of the frisky little fish that darted hither and thither in play among the roots and rocks that filled its course and impeded its wanderings. There were so many things to see and admire in those meadows, no wonder this crooked little brook loitered on its way. It had a habit of singing little runs and trills with the most inimitable melodies as it ran around and over rocks and stones that were largely interested in the moss business.

And when the Winter came and Jack Frost had sealed up the shallow water in this crooked little brook; when the merry birds of Summer had taken their departure for the sunny South, every frisky frout and



shiner knew that he must hie himself away to the deep pools and while away the weary Winter months dreaming, yes, dreaming of the pleasures of bygone days, just as we mortals in the twilight hours of life are so wont to dream of the past.

AlineASNoffat

Washingtonville, N. Y., October, 1928.

LIST OF AUTHORITIES.

In the compilation of this volume the following works and other sources of information have been freely consulted, and from some of them copious extracts have been taken, which is hereby gratefully acknowledged:

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Many hundreds of Newspaper Clippings, some of them dating back sixty years. Also thanks are due to The Newburgh Daily News Printing and Publishing Co. for the use of many illustrations relating to Colonial and Revolutionary periods.



ORANGE COUNTY

RANGE COUNTY, New York, the picturesque, the magnificent, was chosen for an abiding place by the early pioneers because nature had here created a beautiful garden where man might live and reap rich rewards for his toil. Its lofty mountain chains, standing guard over rich, undulating plains, watered by many crystal streams, wending their way to the mighty Hudson, its charming valleys and vales, wooded hills and green meadow lands all appealed strongly to their sense of beauty and the desire for a life of independence, peace, contentment and happiness. And they chose

wisely and well.

The County of Orange dates its existence by legal enactment from October 1st, 1691, in the third year of the reign of William and Mary and in the administration of Henry Slaughter, Esq., Governor of the Colony. Orange County derives its name from the fact that King William was a Prince of the House of Orange. The first Assembly, which convened in the year 1691, passed an act entitled "An Act to Divide the Provinces and Dependencies into Shires and Counties," and Section VII of that act provided: "The County of Orange to begin. from the limits or bounds of East and West Jersey, on the West side of Hudson's River, along the said river to the Murderer's Creek, or bounds of the County of Ulster: and westward into the woods as far as the Delaware River." To this was added later the lands of Wagacheneck and Great and Little Minisink.

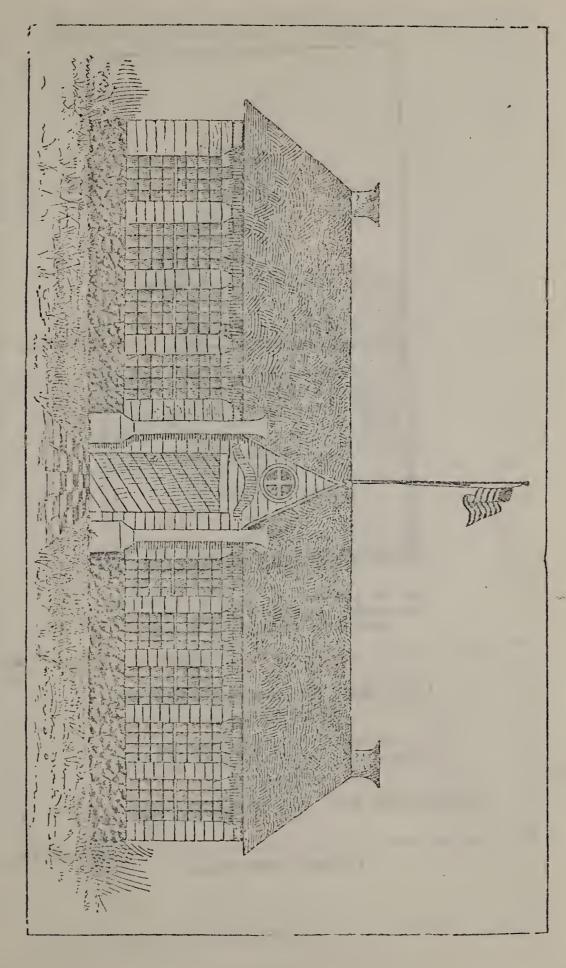
Local tradition records that the first settlements were made by Dutch pioneers along the Minisink River in the early days of Nieu Amsterdam, then an infant Dutch colony. Dates and historical facts are conflicting and vague regarding these early settlers who were few in number, but records in existence show that it was towards the close of the 17th century that active competition in obtaining patents in the district began. On December 30th, 1702, the Cheesecock Patent was





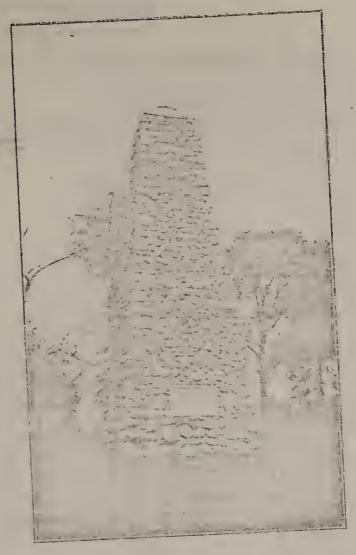
WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, Newburgh, N. Y.





THE PUBLIC BUILDING, OR "THE TEMPLE," ERECTED ON WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS "TEMPLE HILL," NEAR VAIL'S GATE, WHERE WASHINGTON READ HIS CELEBRATED ADDRESS TO THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY REFUSING THE CROWN. COPY FROM THE TARBELL DRAWINGS.





Monument erected on the site of the "Temple." where Washington refused the offer of a crown in March, 1783.

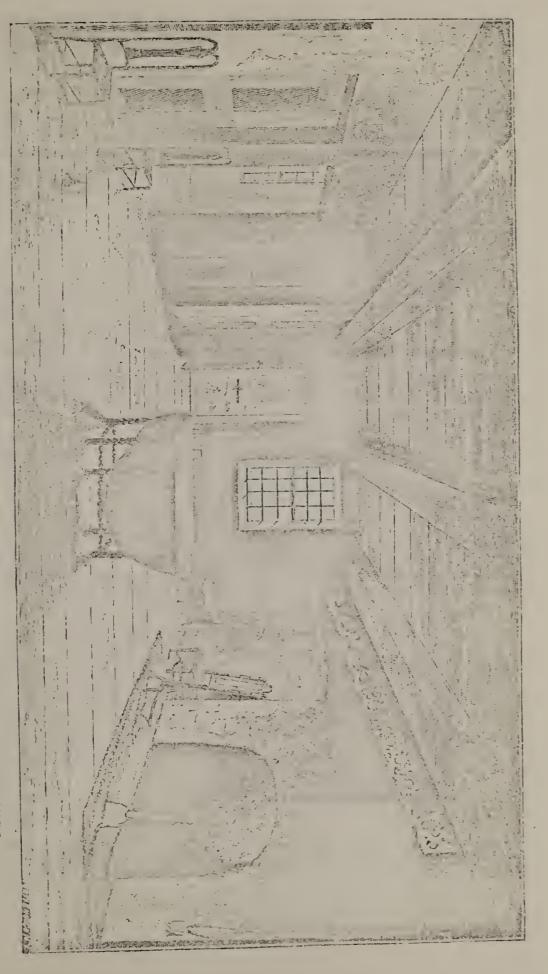
ON THIS SITE WAS ERECTED THE TEMPLE

OR NEW PUBLIC BUILDING
BY THE ARMY OF THE REVOLUTION.
1782-83

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE REPUBLIC

(EAST SIDE TABLET)

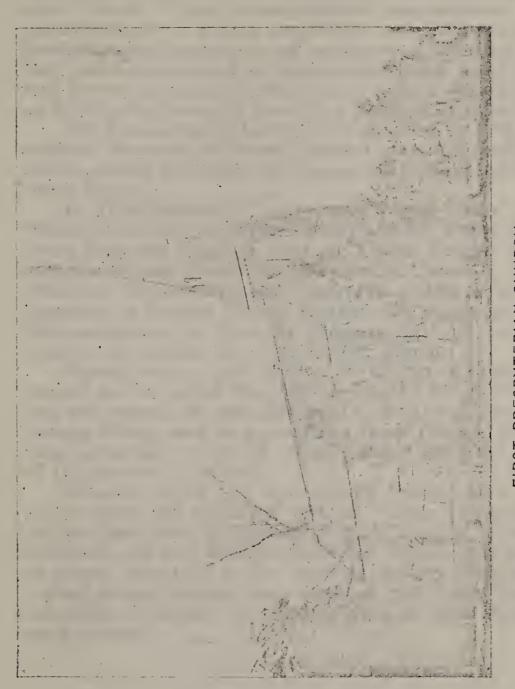




ROOM WITH SEVEN DOORS AND ONE WINDOW, IN WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

Newburgh, N. Y.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Newburgh, New York



granted. This was followed on March 5, 1703, by the Wawayanda Patent, and on August 28, 1704, by the Minisink Patent. Those patents, which were obtained by purchase from the Indian proprietors, covered extensive territories, the boundaries of which were described in such general terms and the lines so vague and undefined that for many years afterward there existed difficulties as to titles that brought about long years of litigation.

The first census of the county was taken in 1698 by order of Governor Bellomont, which showed the population to consist of 29 men, 31 women, 140 children and 19

negro slaves.

In 1785 Rockland County was formed from the Southern territory of Orange County and five towns were taken from the Southern part of Ulster County and added to Orange County, viz.: Newburgh, Cornwall, New Windsor, Montgomery and Deerpark. The present boundary of Orange County contains 834 square miles. The population as given by the last National census shows a population of about 120,000 people.

Almost every acre of Orange County is historic ground and to record the thrilling past of her patriotic men and women, its many places of Colonial and Revolutionary history and its present day industries and business enterprises would fill volumes many times the size

of this modest little book.

Wander where you will, search foreign lands in every clime, and no fairer spot on "God's Footstool" can be found that so appeals to one's sense of beauty, grandeur and love of home as Orange County, the land of plenty, beautiful in the budding Spring, gloriously radiant in her Summer dress of green, rich in the many colorings of Autumn and magnificent in her Winter garb of snow.



Historic Places of Colonial and Revolutionary Times

IN ALMOST every locality of the County of Orange can be found places of historic interest, where scenes were enacted that have become a part of our national history and are closely related to the founding of the National Government. Many of these spots of historic interest relate to early Colonial days, when the locality now known as Orange County was a vast uninhabited forest, peopled by Indians, from whom the early pioneers purchased their lands. Still other places relate to the revolutionary struggle for independence and are rich with the memories of scenes enacted in those heroic times.

To relate in full the history of those days would be a gigantic task and has been ably done by others who have filled volumes that are now regarded as standard histories, and the only intention of the present volume is to renew the public interest in the outstanding events

of those days in brief narrative sketches.

In the centre of what is now the City of Newburgh stands an ancient stone dwelling, surrounded by spacious grounds, on a commanding eminence overlooking the beautiful Newburgh Bay. It was formerly known as the old Hasbronck house, but since coming into the possession of the State, is now known as Washington's Headquarters. Washington made this house his headquarters from April, 1782 until August, 1783. The property came into the possession of the State in 1849, and was formally dedicated on July 4, 1850, when General Winfield Scott raised the flag on the flagstaff. Here are situated the State Museum containing hundreds of relics relating to those early days, and the Tower of Victory. This monument is the result of a movement commenced in the years 1880-81, and was designed as a fitting monument to mark not only that spot but also the encampment grounds at New Windsor and those at Fishkill. It bears this inscription: "This monument was erected under the authority of the Congress of the United States, and of





GEORGE WASHINGTON,
After the painting by Trumbull, at Washington's
Headquarters, Newburgh, N. Y.



the State of New York, in commemoration of the disbandment, under proclamation of the Continental Congress of October 18, 1783, of the armies by whose patriotic and military virtue our national independence and sovereignty were established." The total cost of the

monument was \$67,000.

The Headquarters house is of three parts. The southeast part is the oldest and dates back thirty or forty years before the Revolution. Washington and his family occupied the entire house. His family consisted of himself, his wife, and his aides-de-camp, Major Tighlam, Col. Humphreys and Major Walker. The large room, which is entered from the piazza on the east, known as the room with seven doors and one window, was Washington's dining room, the northeast room was his bedroom, and the one adjoining it on the left was his private office. The family room was in the southeast, the parlor was the northwest room, and the southwest room was the kitchen.

The capture of Burgoyne's army at the battle of Saratoga, gave the Revolutionary forces the control of the Highlands and this district became the strategic centre of the entire war, hence the presence of Washington and the major portion of his army were concentrated at this point. While the English cannon boomed at New York and Quebec, the extremes of the line, the Revolutionary forces guarded the Highland passes on both sides of the Hudson, and from the centre of the field—the Hasbrouck house at Newburgh and the Ellison house at New Windsor—Washington watched, through his secret service, the movements of his powerful enemy.

The Falls house, where the British messenger swallowed the silver bullet containing the note from Sir Henry Clinton to Burgoyne, announcing the fall of the Highland forts, was located in Little Britain Square, a few miles west of Newburgh, a locality formed by the intersection of three country roads. This house was condemned by the Water Board of the City of Newburgh

a few years ago and destroyed.

George Clinton, first Governor of the State of New York, and fourth Vice-President of the United States,



was born near Newburgh, and for years maintained a Summer residence, which he termed a "rural seat," on the shore of the river at New Windsor. He was the owner of this house at the time he was in command of the patriot forces in the defense of Fort Montgomery. It was subsequently called the Christie house, from its long occupancy by the family of that name. The school that Clinton attended, (Stonefield), is located near Salisbury Mills.

General James Clinton, brother of George, and father of DeWitt Clinton, was also born in New Windsor,

about two miles west of Little Britain Church.

The Welling House, in New Windsor, was the birthplace of Dr. Thomas Young, the leader of the patriot band that threw the tea overboard in Boston harbor.

The Edmonston house, in New Windsor, is said to have been the headquarters of Gen. St. Clair, and also the headquarters of the medical staff when the Continen-

tal army was encamped at New Windsor.

The older part of the Brewster house, at New Windtor, was built by Samuel Brewster in 1768. It was at his forge the chain was made that was placed across the Hudson River. The site of the forge at Moodna is

marked by a boulder.

What can be claimed without fear of contradiction, one of the most sacred patriotic shrines in all this great Republic, is the site of the "Temple," or Public Building, on Temple Hill, a half-mile from the little village of Vail's Gate, some three miles west of Newburgh, an illustration of which appears elsewhere. It was here that Washington declared occurred the greatest crisis in the long struggle. Here the great Washington exhibited to the world the noblest traits of his character and demonstrated his unselfish patriotism which has since been the admiration of all mankind.

The joy caused by the outcome of the struggle for liberty was not unmixed with danger to the existing government. The soldiers viewed the coming disbandment of the army with many forebodings for the future. They were ill-clothed, poorly fed, and for many months neither officers nor men had received any pay, for the treasury was empty and there was no hope of its imme-



diate replenishment. Although victory had been achieved and the freedom of their country assured, the present government was in debt, its future uncertain, and many of them looked upon the future with a fear that their hardships were only begun. On May 6, 1782, a dangerous mutiny was discovered among the soldiers of the Connecticut line. It had been conducted with great secrecy, and was on the point of execution before it was discovered. The soldiers had determined to march at reveille the next morning to Fishkill, where they intended taking a number of field pieces, with ammunition and provisions, and proceed to Hartford and demand of the Assembly that justice which they considered their due. The most guilty were arrested and the ringleader was sentenced to death.

So general was there a feeling that the present government was too weak to ever establish a stable government of Republican form, that Colonel Nicola, an officer greatly respected, addresseed a letter to Washington in May, 1782, in which, professing to speak for the army, he declared that a Republic was the least stable of all forms of government, and that the English Government was the nearest to perfection that could be established.

"Owing to the prejudice of the people," he said, "it might not be at first prudent to assume the title of royalty, but if all things were once adjusted, we believe strong arguments might be produced for admitting the title of King." Washington's reply was a stern rebuke administered in a letter to Col. Nicola, in which he said: "It is with a mixture of surprise and astonishment I have read the sentiments von have submitted to my perusal. Be assured, sir, no occurrences in the course of the war have given me more painful sensations than your information of there being such ideas existing in the army as you have expressed, which I must view with abhorrence and reprehend with severity. * * * * I am much at loss to conceive what part of my conduct has given encouragement to an address, which to me, seems big with the greatest mischief that can befall my country. If I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself, you could not find a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable. * * * Let me conjure



you, then, if you have any regard for your country, concern for yourself or posterity, or respect for me, to ban-

ish these thoughts from your mind."

In the latter part of 1782 the discontent in the army was more intense than ever before and a committee of the army visited Congress in December but failed to receive any encouragement from that body for relief. The futile errand of this committee resulted in the publication of the celebrated "Newburgh Letters," of which two were published in pamphlet form and circulated anonymously. They were written with great power and ability and were in tone treasonable in their utterances. One of them advised them to assert their power and compel Congress to right their wrongs, and another concluded: "Can you consent to wade through the vile mire of dependency and owe the remnant of that life to charity which has hitherto been spent in honor? If you can, go, and carry with you the jest of Tories, the scorn of Whigs, and what is worse, the pity of the world. Go, starve and be forgotten." Growing bold in his indignation the writer swept down on Washington himself and exclaimed: "Suspect the man who would advise to more moderation and longer forbearance. Let nothing but death separate you from your arms." With this address was circulated privately a notification of a meeting of officers at the new building on the following Tuesday. In general orders, March 11, Washington expressed disapproval of such disorderly proceedings, and at the same time requested the general and field officers, and one officer from each company, and a proper representation of the staff of the army, to assemble at 12 o'clock on the following Saturday at the New Building to hear the report of the committee of the army to Congress.

General Gates presided at the meeting and deep solemnity pervaded the assemblage. Amid the most profound silence Washington ascended the platform and commenced reading his address, in which he said in part: "Gentlemen, by an anonymous summons an attempt has been made to assemble you together. How inconsistent with the rules of propriety, how unmilitary, and how subversive of all order and discipline, let the good sense of the army decide." Here it is said, he







paused for a moment and drew out his spectacles, carefully wiped them, and while doing so remarked: "These eyes, my friends, have grown dim, and these locks white in the service, yet I have never doubted the justice of my country." This simple remark under the circumstances, had a powerful effect on the assembly. He concluded his address with these memorable words:

"Let me conjure you in the name of the common country, as you value your own sacred honor, as you respect the rights of humanity and the National character of America, to express the utmost horror and detestation of the man who wishes under any specious pretence to overturn the liberties of our country, who wickedly attempts to open the floodgates of civil discord and drench our rising Empire in blood. By thus determining and thus acting you will pursue the plain and direct road to the attainment of your wishes-you will defeat the insidious designs of our enemies, who are compelled to resort from open force to secret artifice, and you will give once more distinguished proof of unexampled patriotism and patient virtue, rising superior to the most complicated sufferings, and you will by the dignity of your conduct, afford occasion for posterity to say, when speaking of the glorious example you have exhibited to mankind: Had this day been wanting, the world had never seen the last stage of perfection to which human virtue is capable of attaining."

Washington then descended from the platform and walked out of the building, leaving the officers to discuss the matter, unrestrained by his presence. Their conference was brief, and by unanimous vote resolutions were passed expressing unshaken confidence in their chief and in Congress. Over forty years elapsed before it was discovered that the writer of these anonymous addresses was Major John Armstrong, one of General Gate's aides, who after the war held civil offices of dis-

tinction in the service of the Government.



KNOX HEADQUARTERS, OR THE JOHN ELLI-SON HOUSE.—A short distance northwest of Moodna, via the old Forge Hill Road, and on the old Blooming Grove and New Windsor Turnpike, stands the house and estate for many years in the occupancy of John Ellison and his descendants, but erected by his father, Col. Thomas Ellison. The main building was erected in 1754, as appears by contract with William Bull, the builder, and the eastern part at an earlier date, probably in 1734. The main building is of stone, with high ceilings, wainscoating, dormer windows, heavy sash and small panes of glass, the eastern portion of wood, with low ceilings and large fire-place.

The rooms in the main building are exceedingly substantial and antique, in the older part a bedroom opening from the kitchen has a trap-door and vault, which was no doubt, the "strong box" of the proprietor. The house formerly fronted the old road leading from the Village of New Windsor to Goshen, which then ran in front of the house. The turnpike changed the line of this road and runs in the rear of the house, leaving the old front unexposed except on visitation. South of the house at the edge of a remarkable ravine, the proprietor had a grist mill of wide repute, but now removed, but the waters of Silver Stream now run through the ravine to Moodna and the "twin lakes" of the old mill pond remain.

This building is locally known as "Knox's Head-quarters," it having been occupied by General Knox at different times in 1779, '80, '81, '82. General Greene and Cols. Wadsworth and Biddle were also quartered here, and ultimately, (1782-3,) it was the headquarters of Major-General Gates, then in command of the cantonement.

Aside from these general facts, the house has a history of interest in connection with the social life of the officers of the army who were stationed within its walls and in the vicinity. They were mainly young men, and many of them with their wives, who found bere the conveniences for the entertainments which they prized. Tradition affirms that on one occasion



the brilliant Mrs. Knox gave an entertainment here at which Washington was present, and opened the dance with Maria Colden, who is said to have been a daughter of Cadwallader Colden, Jr., of Coldenham, that among the guests were Gitty Wynkoop and Sally Jansen, of Kingston, who were great belles in their day, and that a French officer, who was present, gallantly inscribed with his diamond ring the names of the trio on one of the panes in the sash of the principal room. The glass, with the graven names remained in the sash to attest the truth of the story for over one hundred years, until removed to insure its preservation during a period when the property was not occupied.

The question whether Washington danced never be settled to the satisfaction of everyone. Gen. Greene, in 1779, writes to a friend in regard to a ball which he attended the night before: "His Excellency and Mrs. Greene danced three hours without once sitting down." Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, on the contrary, informs historian Lossing that Washington "never danced," that he often attended balls and parties on invitation, and "sometimes walked the figures," but that she never saw him attempt to dance. The late Mr. Robert R. Ellison stated in reference to the party at Mrs. Knox's: "Maria Colden and Sally Jansen were relatives of John Ellison, the former through his sister's marriage with Cadwallader Colden, Jr., and the latter, through his wife, Catherine Jansen, of Kingston. On the occasion of the ball at Knox's Headquarters, Washington did not open the dance with Maria Colden, but the doors being thrown open, promenaded with her through the rooms. This has been the tradition in our family, members of which were present, and has been confirmed by others who were witnesses."

The traditions in the old army families of New Windsor and Newburgh, however, strongly confirm the testimony of Gen. Greene. That Washington danced in his more active years may be accepted as a fact, and not the least of the memories of this ancient mansion, is the picture of his army life which the ball at Mrs. Knox's affords.



THE TEMPLE, WHERE WASHINGTON MADE HIS HISTORIC ADDRESS REFUSING A CROWN.

N ANOTHER page will be found an illustration of the Public Building, or "Temple" as it was familiarly called, exected during the War of the Revolution by soldiers under the orders of General Washington, about three miles southwest of the city of Newburgh and near the present village of Vail's Gate. The first assembly at this building was on February 6, 1783, before its entire completion, to celebrate the anniversary of the alliance with France. It was in this building that Washington assembled his officers on Saturday, March 15, 1783, and addressed them in reply to the anonymous letters which had been written and circulated among the officers and soldiers against the establishment of a Republic at the conclusion of the struggle and strongly advocating the establishment of a Monarchy with Washington at its head.

It was here that Washington exhibited the noblest self-sacrifice and the loftiest patriotism that the world has ever known in all the annals of recorded history. In his address to the assembled officers he boldly stated that he regarded the movement as the greatest crisis of the war, and one that filled him with more alarm than all the disasters of the previous seven years. Here also was organized the patriotic order of The Cincinnati. Here it can be truthfully said that in this building was born the great American Republic, which today is the

wonder of the world.

The building was a wooden frame structure upon a stone foundation, the interior being lathed and plastered. It was well furnished with a spacious hall sufficient to accommodate a good size audience and an orchestra. The vault of the hall was arched and at each end were two rooms used for the assemblage of the boards of officers and an office and store for the quartermaster an commissary departments. It stood for a few years after the war when it was demolished. The late Major Edward C. Boynton, of Newburgh, obtained from Mr. Luther L. Tarbell, of Boston, the original drawings,



made by his father, William Tarbell, who was a soldier in the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. The drawings were made with the juices of grass, butternuts, etc., and were on sheets of paper eighteen inches wide, pasted together, the whole being about seven feet in length.

At noon, on the 19th of April, 1783, eight years after the commencement of the war, the cessation of hostilities was proclaimed from the door of this building.

It was here that General Lafayette was made a Mason by the American Union League, which accompanied the army.

OMNIA RELIOT SERVARE REPUBLICAY

ON THIS SITE THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI WAS BORN MAY 10, 1783, AT THE LAST CANTONEMENT OF THE AMERICAN ARMY AND IT STILL LIVES TO PER-PETUATE THE MEMORIES OF THE REVOLUTION.

(SOUTH SIDE TABLET)

THIS TABLET IS INSERTED BY THE MASONIC FRATERNITY OF NEWBURGH IN MEMORIAL OF

WASHINGTON
AND HIS MASONIC COMPEERS UNDER WHOSE
DIRECTION AND PLANS THE TEMPLE WAS
CONSTRUCTED AND IN WHICH COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE FRATERNITY WERE HELD 1783.

(NORTH SIDE TABLET)



ERECTED BY THE NEWBURGH REVOLUTIONARY MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

1891

E. M. RUTTENBUR, President
JOSEPH M. DICKEY, Vice-President.
A. McLEAN, Treasurer
RUSSELL HEADLEY, Secretary

COMMITTEE OF THE NEW YORK STATE
SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI,
FOURTH OF JULY, 1892:
T. M. L. CHRISTY, CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM SIMM KEESE JOHN SHAYLER

(WEST SIDE TABLET)

UZAL KNAPP, REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.

TT IS not the purpose of the writer to belittle or besmirch the patriotic record of an old Revolutionary soldier, but to set right a historical fact supported by official records of the government, for history should be founded upon truth, supported by undisputed documentary evidence, not local tradition and fiction.

Visitors to Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh gaze with reverence and interest upon the grave of Uzal Knapp, a Revolutionary soldier, who was buried there with military honors in 1856. The monument over his grave is of brown stone, placed upon a substantial granite base. The inscriptions on the front and back are as follows:

THE LAST OF THE LIFE GUARDS UZAL KNAPP

BORN 1759 DIED 1856

MONMOUTH, VALLEY FORGE, YORKTOWN





GRAVE OF UZAL KNAPP,

A soldier in the Revolutionary Army, buried at Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh, N. Y.



COMPANY F, 19th REGIMENT, N. Y. S. M. JUNE, 1860

The term "Washington's Life Guards" is a misnomer, which came into use through local tradition, and was erroneously applied to what is officially known as "The Commander-in-Chief's Guard." The military record of Uzal Knapp can be obtained by addressing an inquiry to the Commissioner of Pensions at Washington, asking for a transcript of the pension case of Uzal Knapp, Revolutionary soldier. Also by inquiry of the Record and Pension office of the War Department for a statement of the services of Uzal Knapp in the Revolu-

tionary War.

These official records of the Government show that Uzal Knapp enlisted for the war at Stamford, Conn., on May 1, 1777, in Captain Stephen Butt's Company, Second Connecticut Regiment, and after being successively promoted to a Corporal and a Sergeant, was honorably discharged from his regiment on June 8, 1783, and subsequently died at New Windsor, N. Y., July 10, 1856, without having any service in the "Commander-in-Chief's Guard," erroneously, but commonly known as "Washington's Life Guard." The muster and pay rolls of the Connecticut Line and the "Commander-in-Chief's Guard" are on file at the War Department, Washington. The name of Uzal Knapp does not appear on the muster roll of the "Commander-in-Chief's Guard."

If there still be those who have doubts of the correctness of the military record of Uzal Knapp, they can get further and more detailed enlightenment by consulting a publication entitled: "The Commander-in-Chief's Guard; Revolutionary War:" Carlos E. Godfrey, M. D.: Washington, D. C., Illustrated. Publishers: Stevenson-Smith Co., Washington, D. C., 1904. This volume is



carefully compiled from the official records and facsimile copies are shown of all important documents. The pension record of Uzal Knapp does not show that he was a member of the "Commander-in-Chief's Guard," and there is not the slightest evidence on file that he was

connected with that notable organization.

The foundation for this historical fiction can be traced to the statement of the historian Lossing, in his book entitled "Field Book of the Revolution." By reference to volume 1 of this work, page 687, Mr. Lossing states that he was the last of Washington's Life Guard, but also states that the narrative of Sergeant Knapp's life was obtained in the lifetime of the latter "through another person."

The belief that he was a member of the "Commander-in-Chief's Guard," which, through local tradition came to be known as "Washington's Life Guards," was so strongly prevalent that when his monument was erected in 1860 the historical fiction was accepted as a

fact.

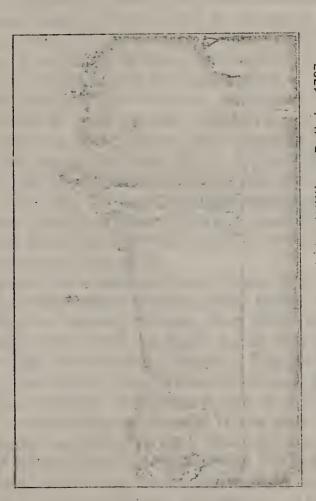
SARAH WELLS BULL

The story of Sarah Wells Bull is one of the historical romances of Orange County, and although retold many times it is a thrilling tale that never ceases to be of interest, for she was one of the heroic characters of the times in which she lived. Briefly told the life story of Sarah Wells, whose descendants today number

thousands, is as follows:

After the County of Orange came into existence by legal enactment on October 1st, 1691, in the third year of the reign of William and Mary, and in the administration of Henry Slaughter, Esq., Governor of the Colony, there was a brisk demand for land in the newly opened territory and an active competition in obtaining patents began. On December 30, 1702, the Cheesecock Patent was granted. This was followed on March 5, 1703, by the granting of the Wawayanda Patent, and on August 28, 1704, by the Minisink Patent. These patents were obtained by purchase from the Indians inhabiting





The old stone house built by William Bull in 1727, Town of Hamptonburgh, Orange Co., N. Y.



those territories and covered extensive tracts, the boundaries of which were so indefinitely described that for many years thereafter there was great difficulty in

establishing titles.

Goshen was in the district known as the Wawayanda Patent, which was purchased from the Indians by John Bridges and Company. With him were associated eleven other patentees who held the land in common until 1706 when it was divided into twelve parts. In 1712 Christopher Denn, a resident of New York City, a carpenter by trade, after undergoing the hardships of a visit to his land, determined to make a settlement upon it. Having selected a spot on the Otterkill, as it is now. known, about two miles from the present village of Goshen, he returned to New York accompanied by a few Indians, and equipped an expedition and sent it by boat up the Hudson. A landing was made on the present site of the village of New Windsor, and from thence the little band made its way through the trackless forest to a spot previously selected.

Christopher Denn and Madame Denn were childless, but had in their charge an orphan maid born in New Jersey, near Staten Island, whom they had adopted as their own, and who lived in their home in early childhood, while they lived on the island. The name of this orphan girl, then about sixteen years of age, was Sarah Wells. Denn, instead of heading the expedition himself, placed it in charge of Sarah Wells and two white men, who were carpenters, and the Indians who had accompanied him to New York, thereby putting the little sixteen-vear-old girl in a "very imprudent and hazardous condition," to quote Eager's History. An inventory of the outfit taken by them, as related by Sarah Wells in after years, is of interest. It consisted of two horses with bells on, two mileh cows with bells, two Irish brahmas, one spade, two pans, two beds, bedding, various articles of food, such as sugar, flour, tea, coffee, and a few trinkets and knives for the Indians.

Thus equipped the little caravan started for the spot selected by Christopher Denn and after a great many hardships reached the end of their journey in two days. On their arrival work was immediately



commenced to erect a wigwam for their habitation, which was soon ready for occupancy. Conscience stricken at having committed Sarah to the daugers of the forest and the Indians, Christopher Denn and his wife followed by horseback the day after Sarah had left them, and the construction of a log house was begun which was occupied by Denn and his little family. A few years later Sarah was married to William Bull.

William Bull, the husband of Sarah Wells, was born at Wolverhampton, England, February, 1689, and died at his home in Hamptonburgh in 1755, aged 66 years. His wife, Sarah Wells, was born April 6, 1694, and died April 21, 1796, aged 102 years. They were married in 1718. Their remains lie in the family burying ground at Hamptonburgh, near the present stone house, which he gave for the purpose, known as "Burying Hill."

The marriage of these two was the first Christian ceremony recorded within the limits of the town of Goshen. The ceremony took place in the new log house of Christopher Denn. Bull was an Episcopalian and desired to be married by the rites of his church. curious difficulty arose as to the procedure. Courts of justice had been established and a magistrate was in the neighborhood, but there was no church and no clergyman who could proclaim the bans three weeks in advance. It was decided that circumstances aftered cases, so the wedding guests were invited and when they arrived the magistrate, carrying a prayer book, proceeded first to the front door of the cabin and proclaimed the bans to the listening forest, then to the back door where he proclaimed them to the cattle and the outbuildings, and then, returning to the front door, proclaimed them once more to the forest. The letter of the law having thus been observed, he performed the ceremony. Wells' wedding dress was of homespun linen, embroidered by herself and is still preserved by one of her descendants, Mrs. Julia Tuthill, of Craigville.

Denn had given his adopted daughter 100 acres of land, as a reward for conducting the expedition from New York, and in 1722 they erected the stone house to replace the cabin in which they spent the first years of their married life. According to the late Mr. Ebenezer



Bull, of the Stone House, they built their new house on a tract of land which William Bull secured from King George II, near his wife's one hundred acres. Tradition records that Sarah Wells assisted in its construction by carrying many of the stones in her apron. This house stands to-day and is known as the old Stone House, an illustration of which appears on another page. It is a quaint and interesting building and well worth

an inspection.

The children born to this couple were: John, born May 13, 1721, married Hannah Holly, of Goshen; William, born March 13, 1723, married Ann Booth, of Hamp tonburgh; Sarah, born September 1, 1725, married George Booth, of Hamptonburgh; Thomas, born Dec. 27, 1727, married Mary Kerr, of Florida; Isaac, born Nov. 17, 1729, married Sarah Mulliner, of Little Britain; Esther, born May 29, 1731, married John Miller, of Montgomery; Mary, born February 3, 1733, married Benjamin Booth, of Hamptonburgh; Margaret, born May 1, 1736, married Silas Horton, of Goshen; Catherine, born May 24, 1738, married James Faulkner, of Wallkill; Ann, born November 4, 1740, married William Eager, of Neeleytown; Richard, born May 29, 1743, married Jemima Budd, of Goshen; Elinor, born March 4, 1745, married William Weller, of Montgomery.

The descendants of Sarah Wells Bull and her children now are numbered by the thousands, are scattered all over this great Republic, and are found in every state of the Union and Canada. The old house and farm were purchased in 1921 by the Bull Family Association which meets annually at the old farm where a monster picnic is held that is attended by members of the Bull family not only from Orange County, but from distant

points of the United States.

The present officers of the Association are: President—Hamlet S. Roe, of Chester; Vice-President, Lillian Bull Wait, of Newburgh; Treasurer—Ernest M. Bull, of Monroe; Secretary—Robert McLeod Jackson, of the Town of Hamptonburgh.



Old Churches of Orange County

Orange County has the distinction of possessing many old churches which were established in early Colonial times, nearly all of which are in existence today and in a flourishing condition. The oldest church organization in the county was established at Goshen in 1721, but services were held there in a crude building some years previous to the formation of a permanent religious organization. The second oldest church organization was established near Montgomery, viz., Goodwill Presbyterian Church.

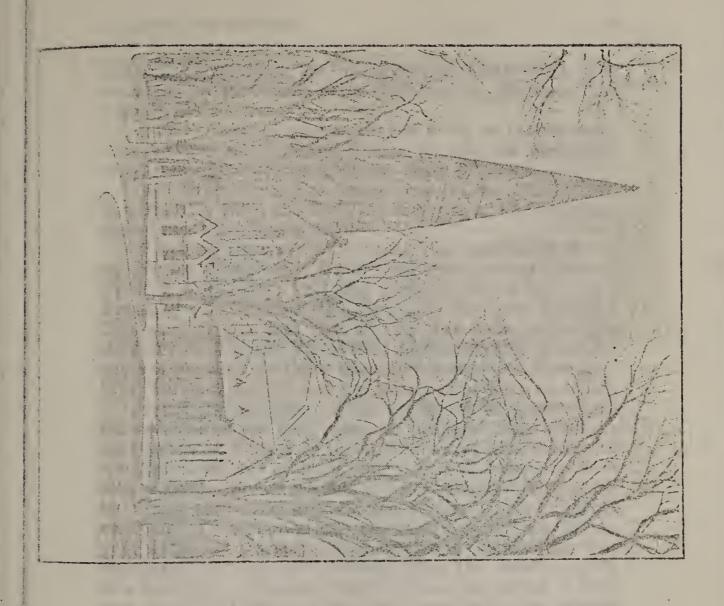
The early pioneers of Orange County were men and women strongly imbued with religious convictions and staunch and firm in their faith, and as the years have rolled by their descendants have kept alive these old church organizations from which have scattered thousands of God-fearing people to all parts of this great Republic. Wander where you will, through the forty-eight States of this Union, one will meet hundreds of men and women whose memory is rich with recollections of early life in connection with associations and happenings in these old churches.

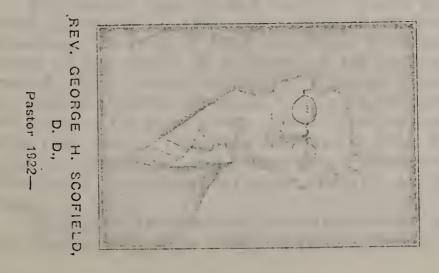
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Goshen, N. Y.

The First Presbyterian Church of Goshen undoubtedly has the distinction of being the oldest religious organization in the County of Orange. Ruttenber's History of the County of Orange says: "There is ample evidence of a collateral nature to show that the Presbyterian Church of Goshen was organized as early as 1721. The dates of legal papers conveying property to the church and the regular call and settlement of a pastor establish this fact. There are, however, no church records in the possession of the society showing either









facts, dates, or names for the succeeding sixty years. The founders of the church were doubtless in the main, the founders of Goshen."

Local tradition records that as early as 1715 a small congregation assembled in Goshen to hear the preaching of an itinerant clergyman by the name of Treat.

At the laying of the corner stone of the present edifice, May 11, 1869, the Rev. Dr. Snodgrass, Pastor of the

church, in his address said:

"During the year 1720 there was preaching in the settlement occasionally by a clergyman by the name of Treat, but in 1721 a call was made upon the Rev. John Bradner, who accepted the invitation, and was installed that year as the first Pastor. He was ordained to the ministry in 1714 and was settled for some years before he came to Goshen at Cape May in the State of New Jersey. He died in 1732 and his remains are with us today.

"In 1724 a committee was appointed to superintend the erection of the first house of worship. There are no particulars on record as to the character, dimensions, or completion of this building, but it is well-known to have been a wooden structure, and to have occupied the ground on which the Court House now stands. This building continued to accommodate the congregation up to the year 1810. In January of that year a committee was appointed to take into consideration the erection of a new building. This new building was completed in 1813 at a cost of \$14,000, and was dedicated in August of that year."

The present spacious and majestic temple was dedicated November 22, 1871. It is built of rough-cut blue lime-stone. A spire of solid stone rises from one front corner of the church to a height of 186 feet from the ground. This is supplemented by a campanile tower 70 feet high at the other corner of the chapel entrance. The bell hangs in the main tower. Above it is the town clock with four dials. The main auditorium with its large gallery is capable of seating more than a thousand people. The church owns a splendid manse and a fine large parish

house.

During the two centuries since the installation of the first Pastor there have been but twelve Pastors in that



long period, and no considerable time has intervened in the succession of Pastors. Their names and years of service are:

Rev. John Bradner	1721-1732
Rev. Silas Leonard	1734-1754
Rev. Abner Brush	1758-1766
Rev. Nathan Ker, A. M.	1766-1804
Rev. Isaac Lewis	1805-1812
Rev. Ezra Fisk, D. D.	1813-1833
Rev. James P. Johnson	1835-1839
Rev. Robert McCartee, D. D.	1840-1849
Rev. William D. Snodgrass, D. D.	1849-1885
Rev. Robert Bruce Clark, D. D.	1885-1902
Rev. Francis Stoddard Haines	1903-1922
Rev. George Hamilton Scofield, Ph. D	1922

Dr. George H. Scofield, the present pastor, was born in East Newark, N. J. He is the son and grandson of Presbyterian clergymen. Upon graduation from New York University in 1911 he was awarded the Philosophical Fellowship and membership in the honorary society of Phi Beta Kappa. He is also a graduate of Union Theological Seminary and has taken post-graduate courses at N. Y. U., Columbia and other educational institutions, receiving the academic degrees of M. A. and Ph. D.

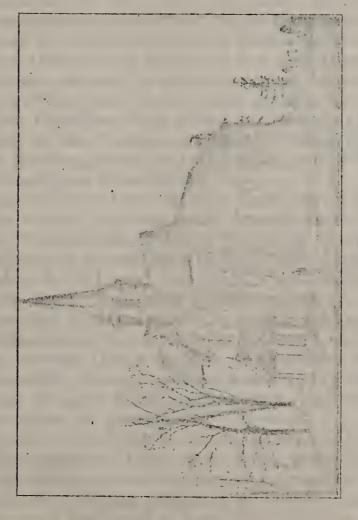
He served as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Highland, N. Y., from 1913-1922, and since then has been pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Goshen.

Tusculum College, one of the oldest Presbyterian institutions of learning, conferred upon him in 1926 the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in recognition of his Christian service for young people. He has the distinction of being the youngest person to receive that degree from the college. For several years he has been vice-president of the New York State C. E. Union, a director of the Y. M. C. A., Boy Scouts and other young people's organizations.

Dr. Scofield is a Chaplain in the Organized Reserves of the U. S. Army, a Royal Arch Mason and Knight Templar. He has traveled extensively in the United

States and abroad.

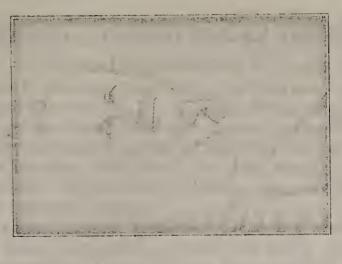




GOODWILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Town of Montgomery, Orange County, N. Y.

The original house of worship was probably built of logs. The church records show that the frame of the present edifice, of solid oak, was erected between 1763 and 1765. After an existence of over one hundred and sixty years, it is still stanned and sixty although it has been remodeled and modernized, twice, first in 1839, and again in 1870.



REV. JOHN H. THOMPSON Present Pastor 1891—



GOODWILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Town of Montgomery, N. Y.

Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Town of Montgomery, Orange County, N. Y., has the distinction of being the oldest of its denomination but one, in the State, west of the Hudson River, and one of the first twenty-six Presbyterian Churches organized in this country. It also has the added distinction of being the second oldest

church in Orange County.

It was established by Scotch-Irish settlers who first settled in this community, possibly as early as 1720, but the early records of this religious organization have been lost and its history previous to 1729 is shrouded in obscurity. From the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, however, it appears that in September, 1729, they sent a commissioner in the person of John McNeal, to said Synod, who represented the organization, and came before that body to "secure supplies of preaching among them." Whether they had at this time any formal organization, as a church, cannot be ascertained, as the early records of the Presbytery of Philadelphia are also lost. The year 1729 has, therefore, been taken as the date of the establishment of the church, as through John McNeal the church made application to be taken under the care of the Philadelphia Presbytery.

The settlement was at that time known as Wallkill, and the church was naturally known as the "Wallkill Church," though Goodwill is the name incorporated in the deed of the ground on which the church stands, dated November 9, 1741, and was probably its corporate name from the first. Ruttenber's History states: "The territory which contributed to its membership came to be very extensive as the settlement enlarged, hence it is not strange to find this a mother of churches, as many as seven or eight having more or less directly sprung from it, some through bitter controversy, and some in the

natural order of growth."

The first structure is believed to have been erected in 1735, although there was some rude building set apart for religious worship some years before this. The Nev. James Milligan Dickson, a former pastor of the church, who delivered a historical address at the one



hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the church on July 20, 1876, said: "In the deed of a highway from the Town of Shawangunk to the Goshen line occurs the following in describing the route, 'by or neare the meeting house, now erecting neare the settlement of Adam Graham.". The date of this is September 1, 1735. The next church building was erected in 1765, which is still standing, and constitutes the main framework of the present structure. In 1830 this building was again remodeled. In 1871 the building was again remodeled."

A few years ago, a former resident of Montgomery, the Hon. William Graham, of Dubuque, Ia., then in his 91st year, contributed to the Westminister Bulletin the following interesting sketch concerning the traditions of Goodwill Church, which, aside from its humorous feature, serves to illustrate the stern and steadfast fortitude of the pioneers who founded and kept alive this early religious society, as well as the customs of those times. He relates:

"When the building was first erected there was no provision for heating it, though two services were held in it every Sunday, both Summer and Winter, and many of the congregation rode from ten to twenty miles to attend them. Every woman who came was provided with a foot-stove in cold weather—a box of perforated tin, enclosed in a wooden frame, in which was an iron saucer filled with live hickory coals. On their arrival they would report first at the tavern on the opposite side of the road, and when the men were thawing out in front of the huge fireplace, the women would repleuish their foot-stoves with hickory coals, of which the landlord always provided a plentiful supply, and the women and children were insured against cold feet. As for the men, they were expected to 'grin and bear it.'

"As the services were separated by an hour's intermission, the entire congregation would again adjourn to the tavern, where the women not only replenished their foot-stoves, but each woman and child was provided with a glass of 'cordial,' and each man with a glass of 'flip,' while the minister was given a separate room and a glass of 'foddy.' Thus all were insured

against taking cold during the second service.



"During the pastorate of the Rev. Andrew King, who was installed in 1776, and served as pastor until his death in 1815, someone suggested that it would be a good plan to install a stove, to mitigate the temperature of the church, as stoves were then quite a novelty and were coming into use. Forthwith two parties arose among the people, and many were the arguments pro and con over the matter, and as usual each party became at the end of each argument more firmly convinced that it had the right side. The progressive pro-stove party

won and the stove was put up.

"The next Sunday after the stove was installed was bitterly cold, and the progressives did not find it too warm, but not so with the anti-stove party. On entering the church they sniffed the hot air, the women loosened their wraps, some laying them aside altogether, while the men removed their overcoats. One man suffered so with the heat that he removed his coat and sat through the service in his shirt sleeves, while one woman was so overcome with the terrific heat that she fainted and had to be carried over to the tavern and revived with a glass of 'toddy.' The anti-stove faction were also quite indignant by reason of the smiling faces and significant winks of the pro-stove faction, and it became evident that the stove would bring endless trouble.

"At intermission it developed that the pro-stove faction had not built a fire in the stove, as they were afraid of setting the building afire with the 'new-fangled thing' and would be charged with burning up the church. The ridiculous exhibition that the antis had made was so humorous that opposition to the stove died

out then and there."

During the long period of its existence the church has had only ten Pastors. They are: Rev. Joseph Houston, installed 1740, died on October 20 the same year; Rev. John Moffat, installed 1751, but when his pastorate ceased is not definitely known, but it was undoubtedly between the years 1765 and 1769; Rev. John Blair, installed May 19, 1769, died December 8, 1771; Rev. Andrew King, installed June 11, 1777, died November 15, 1815, remaining pastor for forty years; Rev. Robert W. Condit, installed December 13, 1820, and remained



pastor till May 2, 1830, and died February 13, 1871; Rev. William Blain, installed July 27, 1830, died June 9, 1857; Rev. David M. Maclise, installed June 17, 1856, resigned 1869; Rev. James Milligan Dickson, installed February 15, 1870, resigned 1883; Rev. David F. Bonner, D. D., installed 1883, resigned 1891; Rev. John H. Thompson, the present pastor, installed 1891.

The present Pastor, the Rev. John H. Thompson, was born in the Town of Stillwater, N. Y., on the site of the Saratoga Battlefield, in 1862. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1887, from Princeton Seminary in 1890. He was Stated Clerk of Hudson Presbytery for

nineteen years.

On Thursday, September 29, 1904, Goodwill Church celebrated its one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary.

BETHLEHEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Cornwall, N. Y.

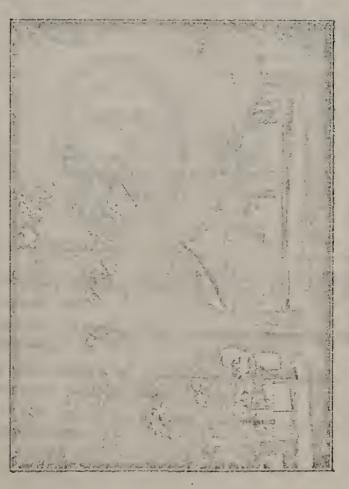
Bethlehem Presbyterian Church enjoys the distinction of being the third oldest Presbyterian congregation organized north of the Highlands and west of the Hudson River, and the further distinction of being the third oldest religious organization in the County of Orange.

The congregation is composed of residents of the Towns of Cornwall, New Windsor and Blooming Grove. The church edifice stands in the Town of Cornwall, on the main highway leading west from Newburgh towards

Washingtonville, Chester and Goshen.

The first church building was erected in 1729, although previous to that date the inhabitants worshipped at various places in the immediate vicinity. For a considerable time the congregation did not enjoy the advantages of a stated ministry, but were dependent upon such occasional services as they could obtain. The Presbyterian Congregation of Bethlehem was incorporated by a certificate filed April 30, 1785. The Trustees named in the instrument were William Demiston, James Kernaghan, Samuel Moffat, Jr., James Clinton, George Denniston, Samuel Ketcham, William Moffat, Joseph





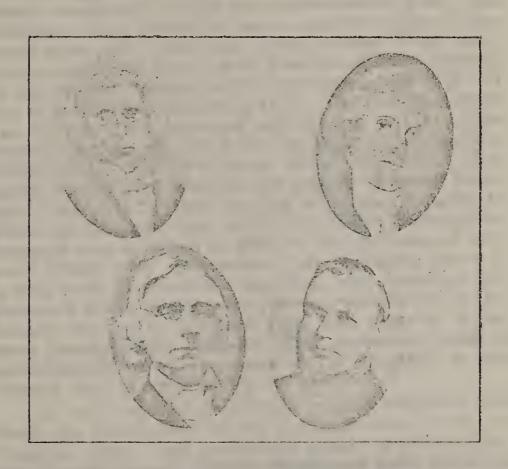
BETHLEHEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Town of Cornwall, N. Y.



REV. J. IRVING MAXWELL Fastor 1897—1918



FOUR FORMER PASTORS OF GOODWILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONTGOMERY, NEW YORK



- No. 1—Rev. William Blain, installed July 27, 1830; died June 9, 1857.
- No. 2—Rev. Andrew King, installed June 11, 1776; died November 15, 1815.
- No. 3—Rev. Robert W. Condit, installed December 13, 1820; resigned April 22, 1830.
- No. 4—Rev. David M. Maclise, installed June 17, 1856; resigned 1869.



Chandler, two of the elders of the church. This was the legal organization under the laws of the State, of a church which had already existed for many years under Colonial authority.

The first minister who permanently resided and labered among them was the Rev. Isaac Chalker, whose labors commenced in 1734 and terminated in 1743. His successors, their periods of service and other details are stated elsewhere. The first church edifice, after being in use ninety-nine years, was demolished and replaced by the present building which was erected in 1828. It was repaired and reseated in 1872. The first parsonage was built in 1735, repaired and painted in 1774. The present parsonage was built in 1837. The burying ground, where the forefathers sleep "the sleep that knows no waking," contains the remains of many prominent residents of that locality who were leaders in affairs in the early days of the Republic. This ancient cemetery was enlarged in 1868 by the purchase of four acres which were appropriately divided into lots. It is still kept in excellent condition, and contains the graves of scores of the early pioneers who settled in this locality nearly two hundred years ago, many of whom were Revolutionary soldiers. The graves of soldiers participating in all the wars of the Republic to the present time are also numerous here.

As one wanders about this ancient cemetery and reads the inscriptions on the old headstones, there are found in plenty such well-known names as Moffat, Tuthill, Howell, Strong, Clinton, Smith and many others of promience over a century ago, the descendants of whom are now scattered all over the United States.

The following brief record of the two church buildings, parsonage, burying ground and pastorates of Bethlehem Church was compiled by the late David F. Wood in 1895, largely from the official church records:

Old church built	
Parsonage built	
Parsonage repaired and painted	1774
Present church built	1828
New Parsonage built	1837



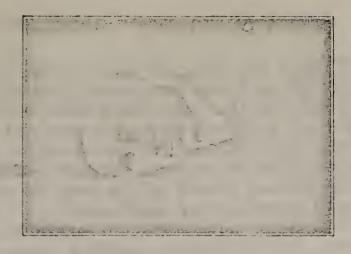
Burying Ground enlarged 1	LS6S
Church reseated1	1872
PASTORATES-PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON	
Rev. Isaac Chalker1735 to 1	1743
Vacant seven years	1750
Rev. Enos Ayers1750 Died 1	1762
Vacant five years 1762 to 1	1767
Rev. Francis Peppard1767 to 1	1771
Vacant two years1771 to 1	1773
Rev. John Close-Stated Supply1773 to 1	1785
Vacant thirteen years	1798
Jonathan FreemanApril, 1798 to February, 1	1891
Vacant two years 1801 to 1	1803
Joel T. BenedictNov. 13, 1803 to Oct. 8, 1	LSOS
Henry Ford	1812
Antonius Doon June 45 1014 to Dob 9 1	
Artemus DeanJune 25, 1814 to Feb. 3, 1	1842
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1	
	1845
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1	1845
John N. LewisJune 1, 1842 to Feb. 4, 1	1845 1854
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1 John N. LewisJune 1, 1846 to Feb. 4, 1 PRESBYTERY OF NORTH RIVER	1845 1854 1866
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1 John N. LewisJune 1, 1846 to Feb. 4, 1 PRESEYTERY OF NORTH RIVER Robert H. BeattieOct. 2, 1854 to May 5,	1845 1854 1866 1872
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1 John N. LewisJune 1, 1846 to Feb. 4, 1 PRESBYTERY OF NORTH RIVER Robert H. BeattieOct. 2, 1854 to May 5, 1 William A. HollidayNov. 27, 1868 to May 4, 1	1845 1854 1866 1872 1891
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1 John N. LewisJune 1, 1846 to Feb. 4, 1 PRESEYTERY OF NORTH RIVER Robert H. BeattieOct. 2, 1854 to May 5, 1 William A. HollidayNov. 27, 1868 to May 4, 1 David J. AtwaterMay 1, 1873 to March 16, 1	1845 1854 1866 1872 1891 1893
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1 John N. LewisJune 1, 1846 to Feb. 4, 1 PRESBYTERY OF NORTH RIVER Robert H. BeattieOct. 2, 1854 to May 5, 1 William A. HollidayNov. 27, 1868 to May 4, 1 David J. AtwaterMay 1, 1873 to March 16, 1 George CampbellApril 26, 1893 to July 30, 1	1845 1854 1866 1872 1891 1893
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1 John N. LewisJune 1, 1846 to Feb. 4, 1 PRESEYTERY OF NORTH RIVER Robert H. BeattieOct. 2, 1854 to May 5, 1 William A. HollidayNov. 27, 1868 to May 4, 1 David J. AtwaterMay 1, 1873 to March 16, 1 George CampbellApril 26, 1893 to July 30, 1 F. Lincoln CornishJune 28, 1894 to Nov. 29, 1	1845 1854 1866 1872 1891 1893 1896
Jonathan D. HubbardAug. 11, 1842 to Dec. 9, 1 John N. LewisJune 1, 1846 to Feb. 4, 1 PRESBYTERY OF NORTH RIVER Robert H. BeattieOct. 2, 1854 to May 5, 1 William A. HollidayNov. 27, 1868 to May 4, 1 David J. AtwaterMay 1, 1873 to March 16, 1 George CampbellApril 26, 1893 to July 30, 1 F. Lincoln CornishJune 28, 1894 to Nov. 29, 1 Irving MaxwellFeb. 24, 1897 to Dec. 1, 1	1845 1866 1872 1891 1893 1896 1918

BLOOMING GROVE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Town of Blooming Grove, N. Y.

Blooming Grove Congregational Church is situated in the Town of Blooming Grove, Orange County, New York, twelve miles west of the Hudson River, and two miles west of the Village of Washingtonville, on the main road running from the City of Newburgh to the Villages of Chester, Warwick and Goshen.

The first congregation was formed in 1759, by early pioneers settling in this section, who came chiefly from Suffolk County, Long Island, many of whom were descendants of the Pilgrims. The first house of worship





REV. J. ELWOOD CORNING

D 2004

BLOOMING GROVE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Town of Blooming Grove, N. Y.



was erected in the same year. It was a small wooden structure, painted yellow, and stood on the spot of the present edifice, facing the road. It was demolished in 1823 and the present church building erected in the same year, which covers not only the space occupied by the first church, but the cemetery in which are interred the remains of three of the former pastors of the congregation, viz.: Revs. Enos Ayres, Benoni Bradner and Samuel Parkhurst.

The present building, erected in 1823, is a wooden structure, 75 feet long and 68 feet wide; has neither a steeple or bell and the audience room is devoid of central supports or pillars. The frame is made of massive oak timbers, hewed from the adjacent forests, and fastened together with wooden pins. The roof and sides were formerly covered with cedar shingles, three feet long, and one foot wide, with one foot exposure; the sides are still covered with these original shingles but the roof is now covered with modern slate roofing. There are two entrance doors, one at each side of the front end, each of which open into a small vestibule, from which ascends a stairway to the gallery, which in olden days extended across the entire end of the church.

The centre of the gallery was occupied by the choir and each end by colored slaves, the men in one gallery and the women in the other. The choir in early days was a large one and consisted of a full orchestra comprising bass viols, violas, violas, flutes and brass horns, and on many occasions numbered fifty voices.

The pulpit is midway between the entrance doors. In recent years there has been installed a large organ of modern make, presented to the church by the late David H. Moffat, of Denver, Col., and which has necessitated the removal of the centre part of the gallery, the choir now being stationed back of the pulpit. The audience room, which at the time the building was erected, was the largest room without central supports in all this section of country, and there are few of larger dimensions at the present day. The seating capacity is about one thousand.

Rows of straight-backed pews, closed with high doors, fill the audience room, which is divided by three



broad aisles. In olden days there were no stoves and in severe cold weather the congregation kept warm by means of little foot-warmers, filled with hickory and chestnut coals, which were carried to church in wagous and sleighs and served the triple purpose of keeping themselves warm while going to church, during service and returning home. Stoves were installed later on, but at the present time the building is heated by two

large furnaces.

Tallow candles in chandeliers were first used for lighting, which were later displaced by whale oil lamps, and these in turn were displaced by kerosene lamps, which of late years have succumbed to modern electric lights. This plain, spacious audience room, with its quaint, interior furnishings, has the atmosphere of a century ago, neatly blended in harmony with the improvements of modern times. Its broad expanse of white ceiling curves from overhead to meet the upright walls of the sides and rear; high, small-paned windows, rounded at the top, admit daylight through wooden blinds painted green, which are fastened to the window frames.

In 1838 the congregation purchased five and one-half acres of land in close proximity to the church, upon which was erected a substantial residence for the minister, and the necessary outbuildings. There is no incumbrance on the property and all expenses of the congregation are raised by contributions from its membership. The original deed of the church property, bearing date of 1758, is framed and hangs on the church wall.

The first pastor of the church was the Rev. Enos Ayres, who was a member of the first class to graduate from the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University. Two other pastors of the church were graduates of that institution, viz., Benoni Bradner, of the class of 1755, and Samuel Parkhurst, of the class of 1757. The Rev. Enos Ayres was installed as the first pastor of the church in 1759, eleven years after graduation. He died in 1762 and was buried in the churchyard now covered by the present church. He was succeeded by Rev. Abner Reeve, father of the celebrated Judge Reeve, who founded the law school at Litchfield, Conn. The Rev.



Abner Reeve resigned in 1768. The Rev. Samuel Parkhurst came as a supply in 1768, his death occurring after serving six months. From 1768 to 1772 the pulpit was filled by supplies, the Rev. Amaziah Lewis serving as such one year, the Rev. - Case, one year, and the Rev. — Greene six months. The church records from 1774 to 1786 have disappeared and no accurate record can be given. The Rev. Benoni Bradner served as pastor from 1786 until 1802, dying in 1804. After the retirement of Rev. Mr. Bradner the Rev. Joel T. Benedict filled the pulpit for a few months. In 1803 the Rev. Noah Crane served as pastor until 1811. He was succeeded by the Rev. William Rafferty in 1812, who resigned in 1815 to accept the Presidency of St. John's College, Annapolis, Md. The Rev. Luther Halsey was installed as pastor in 1816 and served until 1824. He was succeeded by the Rev. James Arbuckle, who remained as pastor until 1847. He was succeeded by the Rev. Ebenezer Mason, who remained from 1847 to 1850. The Rev. Austin Craig was called to the pastorate in 1851 and remained until 1866. The Rev. Warren Hathaway was called to the pastorate in 1866 and served as pastor until his death in 1909. He was succeeded by the Rev. Frederick Walsh, who remained until 1916. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Genther, who remained two years and was succeeded by Rev. C. W. Hardendorf, who served until his death in 1921.

He was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. A. Elwood Corning. He was born at Sparkill, Rockland Co., N. Y., Feb. 25, 1885, where his father, William Burtis Corning, then resided. He comes from a distinguished ancestry on both his father and mother's side, many of his ancestors having been leaders in public affairs in Colonial times. Mr. Corning is an eloquent and forceful pulpit orator, of a pleasing personality, and is deservedly popular in the community. He is an able writer and the author of the following works: Life of William McKinley, Life of James A. Garfield, Life of Will Carleton, and a monograph of Hamilton Fish, Seccretary of State under President Grant. For fifteen years before entering the ministry Mr. Corning was engaged in literary pursuits, being Editor of several peri-



odicals. For twelve years he was a member of the New York Board of Education Lecture Staff and his lectures have taken him in various parts of the country, as well as abroad. His hymns and poems have been widely quoted. In 1921, after having been examined and unanimously accepted before an ecclesiastical council of Congregational Churches, he was ordained to the Christian ministry in the church of which he is now pastor.

LIST OF PASTORS OF BLOOMING GROVE CHURCH*

Rev. Enos Ayres 1759-1762
Rev. Abner Reeve
Rev. Samuel Parkhurst (Supply, 6 Months)1768-1768
Rev. Amaziah Lewis (Supply, one year)
Rev. Case, (Supply, one year)
Rev. Greene, (Supply, 6 monhts).
Rev. Silas Constant
Rev. Benoni Bradner, A. M
Rev. Joel T. Benedict
Rev. Noah Crane
Rev. William Rafferty
Rev. Luther Halsey
Rev. James Arbuckle 1824-1847
Rev. Ebenezer Mason 1847-1850
Rev. Austin Craig
Rev. Warren Hathaway
Rev. Frederick Walsh
Rev. Joseph Genther 1916-1918
Rev. C. W. Hardendorf 1918-1921
Rev. A. Elwood Corning

*The church records from 1764 to 1786 are not available, and the record as above, during those dates, has been taken from Eager's History of Orange County. During that period the pulpit was occupied principally by supplies.



TABLET TO THE MEMORY OF PASTORS FROM

1803 to 1909

A bronze tablet on the west wall of the church commemorates the pastorates of Warren Hathaway, Austin Craig, Ebenezer Mason, James Arbuckle, Luther Halsey, William Rafferty and Noah Craue.

To the memory of WARREN HATHAWAY

Pastor of this Congregation from April 4, 1866, until his death April 4, 1909. He being dead, yet speaketh of Faith, Hope and Charity

Also to the memory of AUSTIN CRAIG, D. D. Pastor, 1851-1865

REV. EBENEZER MASON Pastor from 1847 until his death 1850

REV. JAMES ARBUCKLE Pastor from 1824 until his death 1847

LUTHER HALSEY

Pastor 1815-1824 WILLIAM RAFFERTY

Pastor 1811-1815 REV. NOAH CRANE

Pastor 1803-1811

Worthy Pastors in the Master's Vineyard.

TABLET TO COMMEMORATE THE ONE HUN-DREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERECTION OF THE PRESENT BUILDING

A bronze tablet on the outside of the church, placed midway between the two front doors contains the following:



1S23

1923

This tablet commemorates the
one hundredth anniversary
of the erection of this house
of worship,
which displaced the first
building constructed in 1759.
Presented by the Young People's Club
of the Blooming Grove Church
at the Centennial Celebration
May 27, 28, 29, 1923

BENEATH THIS CHURCH LIE BURIED

ENOS AYRES

FIRST ON THE ROLL OF THE CLASS OF 1848 THE FIRST CLASS GRADUATED

BY THE

COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

BENONI BRADNER and SAMUEL PARKHURST CLASS OF 1757

MINISTERS TO THIS CONGREGATION ERECTED BY THE PRINCETON ALUMNI IN ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK ANNO DOMINI 1909

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Newburgh, N. Y.

The First Presbyterian Church of Newburgh commenced its formal, legal existence shortly after the disbandment of the Revolutionary Army and the breaking up of its encampments in 1783. Previous to this time for nearly a score of years there had been a religious organi-



FORMER PASTORS OF BLOOMING GROVE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Town of Blooming Grove, Orange County, N. Y.



1-Rev. Austin Craig, 1851-1866.

2-Rev. Warren Hathaway, 1866-1909.



zation composed of those who by religious conviction were of the Presbyterian faith, or in the designation used in those days, "in communion with the Church of Scotlaud." It was an informal society and could be designated more properly as an outlying mission station or district. The records of the Marlborough Society state that in the year 1773 the society united with that society in procuring the supply of a minister for both congregations for a very brief period. It appears however to have been in the earlier years in more active and cordial connection with the old church at Bethlehem, the venerable mother of all the Presbyterian churches in this immediate vicinity.

Through the long weary years of the Revolution this feeble congregation continued to remain in existence, though having no pastoral supervision other than that given by an Elder, William Lawrence, by name. Immediately after the close of the war the society became strengthened by the addition of several persons who became residents of the locality on the disbandment of the army. The Society obtained the use of the building used as a storehouse for clothing and other supplies at the corner of First and Montgomery Streets, where public worship was held in the Winter of 1783 and the Spring of 1784. The church records state that on the 12th of July that year, this feeble flock organized itself as a Presbyterian Society under the laws of the State enacted the preceding April. In February the following year they united with the congregation in New Windsor, the original compact to continue for seven years, "for the purpose," as the resolution stated, "of promoting the preaching of the Gospel." From 1785 to 1796 the Rev. John Close was the stated supply. He was succeeded by the Rev. Isaac Lewis, who served until the year 1800. On May 6, 1801, the Rev. Jonathan Freeman was installed as pastor over the two congregations. He resigned in 1804 and was succeeded by the Rev. Eleazer Burnet in the following year, whose brief pastorate was terminated by death one year later. On July 5, 1807, the Rev. John Johnston was ordained and installed as Pastor over the two churches, and continued to hold this relation until 1810, when the union was dissolved, the Newburgh con-



gregation having acquired sufficient strength to support a Pastor. Dr. Johnston's pastorate extended over a period of forty years. He died on August 23, 1855.

On the following December the Rev. S. H. McMullin, who had been an assistant of Dr. Johnston for some months, was called to the vacant pastorate, but a remonstrance was made to the Presbytery against his installation and that body hesitated to place the call into the hands of the young pastor-elect. On September 10, 1856, a call was made out to the Rev. William T. Sprole, D. D., and on the 28th of the ensuing month he was installed as Pastor. He resigned on November 4, 1872.

In February, 1873, the church extended a call to the Rev. William K. Hall, of Boston, Mass., and on the following month of March he assumed the pastorate and was installed in the following May. He served as Pastor until his death in September, 1906.

The Rev. Frederick E. Stockwell, D. D., was called March 21, 1907, and resigned October 1, 1917. The Rev. Ebenezer Flack, D. D., was called February 20, 1918, resigned October 25, 1920. The Rev. John Leyburn Hughes was called March 1, 1922, died March 31, 1926. The Rev. Charles K. Imbrie, the present Pastor, was installed January 28, 1927.

ASSOCIATE REFORMED CHURCH, LITTLE BRITAIN

The records of the Associate Reformed Church, Little Britain, have been preserved with great care and the history of this ancient religious organization dates from Colonial times. The history of this Church is best told by the Rev. John Scott King, the present pastor, in a pamphlet issued at the time of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the society. This brief history of the Little Britain Church says in part:

"By a lease dated the 10th of September, and a release dated the 11th of September, 1765, in the fifth year of His Majesty, George III, King of Great Britain and Ireland,' witnessed by John McClaughry and George



Harris, the latter the first Supervisor of the Town of New Windsor, there passed from the hands of Patrick McClaughry to those of James Jackson, Matthew Mc-Dool and Andrew Crawford, Trustees, that parcel of land upon which the Little Britain Presbyterian Church now stands and most of the land South and West of it used as a graveyard. The cost of the lease was five



LITTLE BRITAIN CHURCH, LITTLE BRITAIN, N. Y., BUILT 1765 (Drawn from description by Elizabeth King.)

shillings, New York money. The cost of the 'release' was five pounds, 'lawful money of the Province of New York.' Upon this piece of ground, containing one acre, one rood and twenty-three perches, whose northwest mark was a white oak tree, whose sapling still stands by the roadside, was built a 'meeting house' for the use of a Presbyterian minister and congregation in connection with the Associate Synod of Scotland, to which the Presbytery is subordinate, adhering to the principles of the Church of Scotland as they are exhibited in the Confession of Faith agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines who met at Westminster, 1647, etc.

"The nucleus of the congregation which had been formed so recently, was a body of men, who, with their families emigrated from County Longford, Ireland, in



1729 under the leadership of Charles Clinton, the first in this country of that famous family. The company first settled near Philadelphia but in 1731 pushed on to the centre of what is now the Town of New Windsor. To them were added soon after other emigrants from Ireland and Scotland, and men of like beliefs from Long Island, earlier emigrants.

"There was already an incipient Presbyterian Church at Bethlehem, to which Charles Clinton brought his letter from Ireland, and with which the Clinton family was connected through two generations. At St. Andrews was a church of England, and at New Windsor

a Presbyterian Church was soon formed.

"What determined the peculiar attitude of the Little Britain community in church matters is found in their history in Ireland, and in the history of their forebears. Cromwell gave to his followers the richest parts of northern Ireland after his conquest of the island in 1650. At the collapse of the Protectorate these same people suffered at the hands of the Stuarts, Charles II and James II, unspeakable hardships. In 1699 William III, or his Parliament put all Irish Woolens and virtually all products under a heavy tariff or Irish embargo. As county Longford was a large woolen and flax goods producer, this worked severely against the welfare of the inhabitants.

"Again the Church of Scotland, which, at times; was truculent to Government favor, tolerated the patronage idea in regard to church pastorates. Erskine in 1737 had taken issue with this state of things and declared the church to be 'the freest society on earth.' Many ministers and congregations rallied around Erskine and brought about the Secession Church. But this was not all. A little later the Burgesses of the Scotch cities were required to take oath to support the religion of Scotland, and as that religion was, in a way, interrogative, there came into being two classes of the Secession, the Burghers and Anti-burghers, those who would allow the oath and those opposed to it. The Little Britain Church was Anti-burgher in the Secession church.

"These facts explain to a large extent, the Revolutionary attitude of the congregation. Almost to a man



the people were against the whole King idea and against its shadow. The Clinton family was not of this persuasion and probably also of a higher class, as classes went then, than the common run of emigrants, who made up the settlement in 1730 to 1765. Established Scotch Presbyterianism might do for the Clintons, but not for

these people. It smelled of the King.

"The first church building was erecteed in 1765; it was square in form, with the pulpit on the west, Patrick McClaughry being the builder. It was unplastered inside, its rafters exposed and meeting at a point in the roof. Its dimensions were about 40x40 feet on the ground. The building was clapboarded on the North and East, and shingled on the West and South. There were no stoves in the building, the minister and people bringing foot stoves. Sometimes Mr. Scrymgeour's stove was so warm to his feet that an incense of steam surrounded him as he poured water from the pulpit pitcher upon it to cool it off. The building was in a woods of hickory and oak, some of whose saplings are yet on the West end of the graveyard.

"In 1768 the Rev. Robert Annau, of Scotland, brought up in the Anti-burgher branch of the Secession Church, was installed pastor, having in 1765 been ordained and installed over the Neeleytown church. He continued as joint pastor of these churches until 1783, residing at Neeleytown, when he accepted a call to the

Federal Street Church of Boston, Mass.

"In 1782 the congregation voted to enter the unionbody known as the Associate Reformed Church, made up of Seceders, the Associate Synod, and Reformed Presbyterians. Their pastor had taken a prime interest in this union, which brought the church into relations with the Presbytery of New York.

From 1783 to 1791 the church was without a pastor. However, on May 6, 1791, the congregation was able to ordain and install Thomas Gibson Smith as their pastor. He severed his connection with the church May

14, 1800.

"From 1800 to 1812 there was no settled pastor over the church. By 1812 the church had rallied enough to call to it the Rev. James Scrymgeour, from Newburgh.



He was a native of Scotland, a man of commanding presence and powerful eloquence. He was installed January 24, 1812. He died in 1825 and was buried in

the yard around the church.

"In 1825, a missionary student, Robert H. Wallace, who had acted as an assistant to the Rev. Mr. Scrymgeour, was prevailed upon to take up Mr. Scrymgeour's work and was installed pastor on Oct. 6, 1825. He died February 9, 1868.

On the 30th of December, 1857, Robert H. Wallace, his son, was installed as pastor. The pastorate of the younger Wallace was marked with great prosperity. Four hundred persons were added to the church membership, and the congregation sometimes numbered as high as 300, filling galleries and floor sittings Sunday after Sunday. In 1867, on October 8, the church assumed membership in the North River Presbytery, Old School, and thus became Presbyterian, although holding the corporate name, The Associate Reformed Church. On Dec. 18, 1882, Rev. R. Howard Wallace resigned his charge after serving as pastor for 25 years.

"The Rev. George L. Richmond was ordained to the ministry and installed as pastor over the church on October 10, 1883. In October, 1889, he resigned to accept a call to the Congregational Church of Amesbury, Mass.

"In May, 1890, the Rev. John Scott King was called to the church and ordained and installed pastor October

22 of the same year.

"In 1825 the old, original church building was torn down and a new and larger church built. Its dimensions were about 35x55 feet on the ground. The pulpit was on the north end of the audience room, around which on the West, South and East sides extended a gallery. The entrance doors were at either side of the pulpit so that everyone entering faced the congregation. About 1826 a house two miles west of the church on the main road, lying at the west foot of Mulliner's hill on the north side of the road was purchased for use as a parsonage.

"In 1861 the present parsonage was bought. At the time the building was a tavern, but was relitted at a cost of about \$3,000. On February 12, 1899, the third



church building burned to the ground. The day was the Sabbath and the pastor had just begun his sermon when the fire was discovereed. The day was cold and stormy and there were but a few of the congregation present. However, with the assistance of a few summoued from the neighborhood they were successful in saving from the flames all of the interior furnishings, including the carret.

"The congregation worshipped for seven months at Pierson's creamery hall nearby until the present structure was ready for occupancy. The third, and present church building was dedicated September 28, 1899. Its cost was \$5,743.85; adding to this the pews and other furishings which were saved from the old church, the total value of the new structure was about \$7,500.

NEW WINDSOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The New Windsor Presbyterian Church dates its organization from September 14, 1764, at which time Joseph Wood, William Lawrence, Samuel Brewster and Henry Smith were chosen Elders. It was formally constituted May 5, 1766, by the Rev. Timothy Jones, a committee of the Presbytery of New York. From the date of its institution until 1805, it was associated with the Bethlehem and Newburgh Societies in the support of a pastor, and from 1805 to 1810 with Bethlehem. From 1810 to 1827 it enjoyed only occasional ministerial labors. On May 1, 1827, the Rev. James H. Thomas was employed in connection with the church at Canterbury, and was installed pastor of both churches, February 12, 1828. The connection with the Canterbury church was dissolved in 1834, Mr. Thomas serving the New Windsor church exclusively until June 1835, and continued in that relation until April, 1840. The pulpit was subsequently occupied by supplies, among whom were: Rev. N. S. Prime, Rev. Henry Belden, Rev. Isaac C. Beach, and Rev. James Bruvn.

The first building erected by the Society was a small structure in the village of New Windsov. It is said that it was occupied as a hospital during the encampment



of the Revolutionary army stationed at Newburgh and New Windsor, and was subsequently destroyed by fire. The present edifice was erected in 1807. It is a small, wooden structure, with spire, and adjoins the present village on the West. In the ancient burying ground attached, the oldest monument is that which records the resting place of John Yelverton, one of the founders of the village, who died June 12, 1767, aged 74 years.

In 1867 religious services were discontinued, the congregation having become so small that it was not able to maintain a pastor, and since that date the society as an active religious body has been but a memory.

ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Patrick's Church, Newburgh, enjoys the proud distinction of being the oldest Catholic Church in Orange County, and in a few years from now, viz., 1937, will

formally celebrate its centennial.

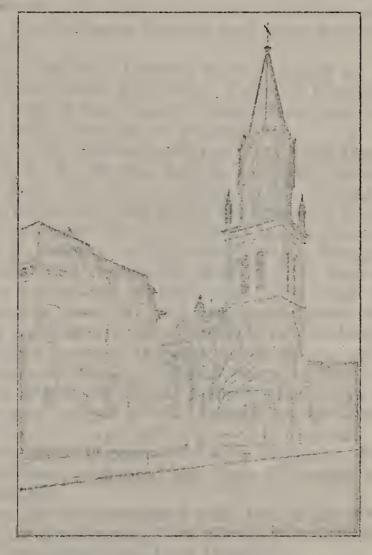
According to reliable historical sources, services were occasionally held in private houses in the locality, even prior to 1816, for the few and scattered Catholics of the District, but it was not until the year 1836, that a parish was formally established, and a pastor

appointed.

The name of the first pastor was Rev. Patrick Duffy. The name of the Bishop then ruling New York Diocese, was the Right Rev. John Dubois. Father Duffy remained pastor until 1853. Since then the parish has had six pastors, and under each, Catholicity has made strong strides. Indeed, measured by the increase in the number of Communicants, its progress has been phenomenal. For the little flock of 200 in 1837, has now increased to nearly 5,000. This increase is all the more remarkable, when we realize that besides St. Patrick's Church, there are now in Newburgh, three other Catholic Churches with large congregations.

But its progress is not marked by numbers alone. In the field of education, it has also a splendid record, conducting for some time, two parochial schools, one for boys, and the other for girls. In the work of Chris-





ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,
Grand Street, Newburgh, N. Y.



tian and Secular education in these schools, seventeen teachers are now employed. Measured also by a material standard, St. Patrick's Church is in a very strong position. Besides the church it possesses a great deal of real estate, including a Rectory, a Convent, a Brothers' House, two Schools, two Cemeteries, and two houses, and a large hall. It also has a Church and some property in New Windsor.

Besides St. Patrick's Church, there are now as we have stated three other flourishing Catholic Churches in Newburgh, and in the County where there was only

one church in 1837, there are at present 35.

The name of the present pastor is Very Rev. Henry O'Carroll, V. F. P. R. He was born in Listowel, Ireland, in 1869. He made his college studies at St. Michael's College, in the same town, and also at St. Breendan's, Killamey. From the latter college, he went to the National Ecclasiastical University of Maynooth, where he made his philosophical and theological studies. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1893, and soon after his ordination came to America. His first appointment was as one of the assistants at St. Patrick's in Newburgh. Here he remained for over 14 years, when he was made pastor of Livingston Manor. After 7 years, in this pastorate, he was appointed by the late Cardinal John M. Farley, permanent rector of St. Patrick's, Newburgh, December 1914.

In the year 1924, December 10, His Eminence, Patrick Cardinal Hayes, appointed him Dean of Orange and Rockland Counties.

At present he has associated with him in his work in the parish, three assistants, Rev. Stephen P. Connelly, Augustive A. Donoghue, and John O'Reilly.



Orange County Poets, Statesmen, Historians, Writers and Men of Note

RANGE COUNTY can claim the distinction of having been the home of many men and women who have achieved literary fame as poets, historians, journalists and writers, the work of several having found a permanent place in English literature. Chief among her poets may be mentioned Nathaniel Parker Willis, of Cornwall, and Goshen's sweet singer, Mrs. Ethel Lynn Eliot Beers. Poems of both these writers are to be found in Bryant's "Family Library of Poetry and Song," a standard work of international reputation.

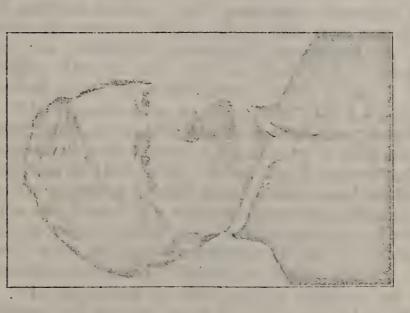
ETHEL LYNN ELIOT BEERS.—Goshen's Sweet Singer, Mrs. Ethel Lynn Eliot Beers, who wrote under the nom de plume, of "Ethel Lynn," was born at Goshen, Orange County, N. Y., in 1825 and died at Orange, N. J., in 1879. Mrs. Beers who was a woman of rare literary gifts, was a frequent contributor to the leading periodicals of her time. Perhaps her best known poem is "All Quiet Along the Potomac," written during the civil war, which attracted wide attention, and occupies a permanent place in standard poetical literature.

"All Quiet Along the Potomac" was first published in Harper's Weekly of November 30, 1861. The phrase, "All Quiet Along the Potomac," was a familiar one in the Fall of that year, and in the indifferent amouncement that was one day added, "A Picket Shot," the

author found the inspiration of her poem.

This celebrated poem when first published bore only the initials "E. B.," and as it went floating around in the great sea of journalism, numerous aspirants for literary fame, who were not over scrupulous in their methods of obtaining it, grasped the opportunity of playing the role of literary pirates in their ambitious desire to have their names handed down to posterity as poetical celebrities, in the vain hope of thus achieving enduring literary fame.





Major EDWARD C. BOYNTON Born Feb. 1, 1824. Died May 3, 1893.



ETHEL LYNN BEERS Born 1825, Died 1879.



Mrs. Beers, in an explanatory note in her volume of collected poems entitled "All Quiet Along the Potomac and Other Poems," published by Porter & Coates, Philadelphia, (1879,) gives the history of this poem along with the amusing incidents connected with its publication and the various claims of those who sought to establish themselves as its author. She says:

"In the Fall of 1861, 'All Quiet Along the Potomac' was a familiar heading of all war dispatches. So, when this poem appeared in Harper's Weekly of Nov. 30, it was quickly republished in almost every journal in the land. As it bore only the initials 'E. B.,' the poem soon became only a nameless waif and was attributed to

various pens.

"The London Times copied it as having been written by a Confederate soldier and found in his pocket after death. (It seems to have been a dangerous thing to copy it, as it has so often been found in dead men's pockets.) An American newspaper quoted it, saying that it was written by a private soldier in the United States service and sent home to his wife. This statement was met by another asserting that it was written by Fitz-James O'Brien. As the soul of that true poet and gallant soldier had gone out through a ragged battle-rift won at Ball's Bluff, this was uncontradicted until an editorial paragraph appeared in Harper's Weekly, July 4, 1863, saying that it had been written for that paper by a lady contributor.

"It appeared in a volume of 'War Poetry of the South,' edited by William Gilmore Sims, as a Southern production, and was set to music by a Richmond music publisher in 1864, with 'Words by Lamar Fontaine,' on its title page. A soldier cousin, who went with Sherman to the sea, found in a deserted printing office at Fayette-ville, a paper containing a two-column article on the poem, with all the circumstances under which 'Lamar Fontaine assurances it while an widnest duty.'

Fontaine composed it while on picket duty.'

"It appeared in the earlier editions of Bryant's 'Library of Poetry and Song,' over Mrs. Howland's name, which was afterwards corrected by Mr. Bryant.

"Within the last year a Mr. Thaddens Oliver claims its authorship for his deceased father, being no doubt



misled by a wrong date, as he fixes an earlier time than

its first appearance in Harper's Weekly.

"I have been at some pains to gather up these dates and names as one of the enriosities of newspaper-waif life. To those who know me, my simple assertion that I wrote the poem is sufficient, but to set right any who may care to know, I refer to the columns of the old ledger at Harper's, on whose pages I saw but the other day, the business form of acceptance of, and payment for, 'The Picket Guard,' among other publications.

"Fortunately I have two credible witnesses to the time and circumstances of its writing. A lovely lady sitting opposite me at the boarding house table, looked up from her morning paper at breakfast time to say, 'All Quiet Along the Potomac, as usual,' and I, taking up the next line, answered, 'except a poor picket shot.'

"After breakfast it still haunted me, and with my paper across the end of my sewing machine, I wrote the whole poem before noon, making but one change in copying it, reading it aloud to ask a boy's judgment in referring to two different endings, and adopting the one he chose. Nothing was ever more vivid or real to me than the pictures I had conjured up of the picket's lonely walk and swift summons, or the waiting wife and children. A short sojourn in Washington had made me quite familiar with the routine of war time and soldier life. The popularity of the poem was, perhaps, due more to the pathos of the subject than to any inherent quality.

"ETHEL LYNN BEERS."

Orange, N. J., 1879.

"ALL QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC" (By Ethel Lynn Eliot Beers)

"All quiet along the Potomac," they say,
Except now and then a stray picket

Is shot as he walks on his beat, to and fro, By a rifleman hid in the thicket.

Tis nothing: a private or two, now and then, Will not count in the news of the battle;

Not an officer lost,—only one of the men, Moaning out, all alone, the death rattle.



All quiet along the Potomac to-night,

Where the soldiers lie peacefully dreaming; Their tents in the rays of the clear Autumn moon, Or the light of the watch-fires, are gleaming.

A tremulous sigh, as the gentic night wind

Through the forest leaves softly is creeping; While stars up above, with their glittering eyes, Keep guard,—for the army is sleeping.

There's only the sound of the lone sentry's tread,
As he tramps from the rock to the fountain,
And he thinks of the two in the low trundle-bed,

Far away in the cot on the mountain.

His musket falls slack; his face, dark and grim, Grows gentle with memories tender,

As he mutters a prayer for the children asleep, For their mother,—may Heaven defend her!

The moon seems to shine just as brightly as then, That night when the love yet unspoken

Leaped up to his lips,—when low, murmured vows Were pledged to be ever unbroken;

Then drawing his sleeve roughly over his eyes,

He dashes off tears that are welling, And gathers his gun closer up to its place, As if to keep down the heart-swelling.

He passes the fountain, the blasted pine tree,— The footstep is lagging and weary;

Yet onward he goes through the broad belt of light, Toward the shades of the forest so dreary.

Hark! Was it the night-wind that rustled the leaves?
Was it moonlight so wondrously flashing?

It looked like a rifle: "Ha! Mary, good-by!"
And the life-blood is ebbing and plashing.

All quiet along the Potomac to-night,— No sound save the rush of the river;

While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead,—
The picket's off duty forever.



MEMORIAL DAY

(By Ethel Lynn Eliot Beers)

(The following poem, written by Mrs. Beers, was read by Henry Bacon at the Memorial Day exercises at Goshen, May 30, 1870, and published in the Independent Republican on June 2, 1870.)

Whisper softly, stainless lilies,
As you fold each snowy cup,
Over soldiers who are sleeping
With their war tents folded up.

Bear to them our loving message, In thy sweet, unwritten speech, Chime, white bells, above them softly Echoes only angels teach.

Tell them, roses, as you wither,
Tho' their dust shall heed you not,
Still, by song, and flag, and blossom,
We would prove them unforgot.

Show them, pansy's purple shadow,
Through thy heart of golden bloom,
How the light of deeds beroic
Overlies the darkened tomb.

Passion Flow'r with mystic meaning, Lordly, banned fleur-de-lis, Mignonette, and pale narcissus, Soldier dust, we give to thee.

Myrtle crown, and laurel chaplet,
Fragrant things that bloom and die,
These, oh camp of silent sleepers,
Over cv'ry outpost lie.

These, we leave with loving message, Crowns, the faithful earth will keep, While the sacred dust of heroes Still she softly holds, asleep.



GIVEN, NOT HIRED

We hire the roof above our heads,
And walls to gird us round,
The garden walk, the drooping vine,
The rose, and blossom-mound;
But, oh that streak of sunset sky
Between the budding trees,
The moonlight on the little porch,—
Whom shall we pay for these?

We have musicians, too, all day,
Whose flutes we did not bring;
An Oriole trills all the while,
And saucy Robins sing,
While in the brush of Evergreen
A Cat-bird, gray and shy,
A solo gives. Who pays the birds
For all these songs? Not I.

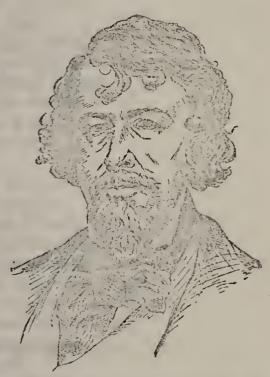
Just when the twilight turns to dusk,
And reveries are sweet,
A piping voice, exceeding small,
Sounds by my idle feet,
And bids me listen to its tale
Of home and household fire—
Our cricket that we did not bring,
The song we did not hire.

The Summer wind that lifts the leaves,
To whisper soft and low
How Roses and Syringas Bloom,
How sweet Acacias blow,
With memories of childhood's hours
In garden pathways sweet—
Who sends the South wind to my door,
With soft, unshodden feet?



Nay, these are gifts one cannot buy,
Nor pay in market gold;
One debt uncancelled evermore
When cycles shall have rolled.
So lifting up a thankful heart
To God, who gives, I cry,
"Thou knowest, Lord, I cannot pay
For all these things; not I."

NATHANIEL PARKER WILLIS.—Born in Pertland, Maine, January 20, 1806, died at his country home, Idlewild, Cornwallon-the-Hudson, January 20, 1867. His chief works are: Melanie, Lady Jane and other poems; Pencillings by the Way; Inklings of Adventure; Romance of Travel, comprising Tales of Five Lands; People I Have Met, or Pictures of Society and People of Mark; A Health Trip to the Tropics; Out of Doors at Idlewild; Paul Fane, or Parts of a life



else Untold, a Novel. Edgar Allen Poe, in a review of the literary work of N. P. Willis said: "As a writer of 'sketches' properly so called, Mr. Willis is unequaled. Sketches—especially of society, are his forte, and they are so for no other reason than that they afford him the best opportunity of introducing the personal Willis—or more distinctly because this species of composition is most susceptible of impression from his personal character."

Among his short poems, perhaps the most popular are "May" and "The Belfry Pigeon."



THE BELFRY PIGEON (By N. P. Willis)

On the cross-beam under the Old South bell The nest of a pigeon is builded well, In summer and winter that bird is there, Out and in with the morning air; I love to see him track the street, With his wary eye and active feet; And I often watch him as he springs Circling the steeple with easy wings, Till across the dial his shade has passed, And the belfry edge is gained at last; 'T is a bird I love, with its brooding note, And the trembling throb in its mottled throat; There's a human look in its swelling breast, And the gentle curve of its lowly crest; And I so often stop with the fear I feel,— He runs so close to the rapid wheel.

Whatever is rung on that noisy bell,—
Chime of the hour, or funeral knell,—
The dove in the belfry must hear it well.
When the tongue swings out to the midnight moon,
When the sexton cheerily rings for noon,
When the clock strikes clear at morning light,
When the child is waked with "nine at night,"
When the chimes play soft in the Sabbath air,
Filling the spirit with tones of prayer,—
Whatever tale in the bell is heard,
He broods on his folded feet unstirred,
Or, rising half in his rounded nest,
He takes the time to smooth his breast,
Then drops again, with filmed eyes,
And sleeps as the last vibration dies.

Sweet bird! I would that I could be A hermit in the crowd like thee! With wings to fly to wood and glen; Thy lot, like mine, is cast with men; And daily, with unwilling feet,



I tread, like thee, the crowded street, But, unlike me, when the day is o'er, Thou canst dismiss the world, and soar; Or, at a half-felt wish for rest, Canst smooth the feathers on thy breast, And drop, forgetful, to thy nest.

I would that in such wings of gold
I could my weary heart upfold;
I would I could look down unmoved
(Unloving as I am unloved,)
And while the world throngs on beneath,
Smooth down my cares and calmly breathe;
And never sad with others' sadness,
And never glad with others' gladness,
Listen, unstirred, to knell or chime,
And, lapped in quiet, bide my time.

MAY

(By N. P. Willis.)

Oh, the merry May has pleasant hours,
And dreamily they glide,
As if they floated like the leaves
Upon a silver tide;
The trees are full of crimson buds,
And the woods are full of birds,
And the waters flow to music,
Like a tune with pleasant words.

The verdure of the meadow land
Is creeping to the hills,
The sweet, blue-bosomed violets
Are blowing by the rills;
The lilac has a load of balm
For every wind that stirs,
And the larch stands green and beautiful
Amid the sombre firs.



There's perfume upon every wind— Music in every tree—

Dews for the moisture-loving flowers-

Sweets for the sucking bee;

The sick come forth from the healing South, The young are gathering flowers;

And life is a tale of poetry,

That is told by golden hours.

It must be a true philosophy,

That the spirit when set free

Still lingers about its golden home,

In the flower and the tree,

For the pulse is stirr'd as with voices heard

In the depth of the shady grove,

And while lonely we stray through the fields away, The heart seems answering love.

GEORGE CLINTON.—For many generations the name of Clinton has been a name for New York State to conjure with. The public achievements of George Clinton and his fame as a far-seeing statesman have been somewhat obscured by the later brilliancy of De-Witt Clinton, of the same clan. George Clinton was born on July 26, 1739, in what is now the Town of New Windsor, Orange County, N. Y. He was the youngest son of Charles Clinton, who came from the North of Ireland. He was born in 1690 and died in Orange County in 1773.

It should be stated by way of explanation regarding the birthplace of George Clinton, that he was born in what was then the County of Ulster, but his life work and political associations were confined largely to this county. In the year 1797 Orange County included the present county of Rockland, its northern boundary extending only as far as Murderer's Creek. In that year, what is now Rockland County, was detached, and five towns then in Ulster County, viz, New Windsor, Newburgh, Wallkill, Montgomery and Deerpark were annexed to Orange County, whereby Orange County



acquired its present dimensions. George Clinton resided at New Windsor and the house in which he lived is still in existence.

His first noteworthy adventure was connected with privateering in the French war of 1763. He was an officer in the expedition against Fort Frontenac, and after the war went into law and politics. He was chosen to the Colonial Assembly and to the Continental Congress and was made a Brigadier-General in the Revolutionary Army. In 1777 he was elected first Governor of the State of New York. He was re-elected and occupied the executive chair in all for eighteen successive years, and in 1800 was chosen for one more term, making twenty-one years as Governor. In 1804 he was elected Vice-President of the United States, holding the office until his death, as he was re-elected in 1808, when Madison was elected President. He died in Washington in the year 1812, aged 73 years.

Under his leadership the state's commercial interests were jealously guarded. It is stated by a well informed authority that the vast project of the Erie Canal, which was carried out by DeWitt Clinton, had its inception in the fertile brain of George Clinton, who, as a member of a distinguished party which included President Washington and Alexander Hamilton, toured the northern and western parts of the state in 1780, investigating economic conditions.

DeWITT CLINTON.—DeWitt Clinton was born at Little Britain, Orange County, N. Y., in 1769. He died suddenly while engaged in official duty at Albany. February 11, 1828. His paternal ancestors, although long resident in Ireland, were of English origin, and his mother was of Dutch-French blood. He was educated at Columbia College, graduating with high honors. Choosing the law for his avocation, he studied law under Samuel Jones, afterwards Chief Justice of the United States Superior Court. He was admitted to the Bar in 1788 and entered immediately into political life, being an ardent supporter of his uncle, George Clinton. He took an active interest in the adoption of the Federal



Constitution, and reported for the press the proceedings of the convention held for that purpose, also acting as private secretary for his uncle. His first office was Secretary of the Board of Regents of the University, and the next, Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of state fortifications. In 1797 he was elected to the State Assembly as a representative from New York City, where he made his residence, and the next year was chosen State Senator for four years. In 1802, when but 33 years of age, he was appointed a Senator of the United States. He labored for the abolition of slavery and its kindred barbarism, imprisonment for debt. Before his term as Senator expired he resigned to accept the office of Mayor of New York, which he held for four years, when he was removed; he was again appointed in 1809; again removed in 1810; finally appointed in 1811, again holding the office for four years, through the period of the war with England. He was a member of the State Senate from 1805 to 1811; Lieutenant-Governor for the next two years, and for part of this time again made a member of the council of appointment. In 1804, his uncle, the Governor, was elected Vice-President of the United States, and soon afterwards by reason of age, retired from active political life. His retirement left the political scepter of the Clintons in the hands of DeWitt, who speedily became the leader of the Republican party in the State of New York, and their candidate for President, at the close of Madison's first term. The result of the election was a disastrons defeat for Clinton, he having but 89 electoral votes to 128 for Madison. His partisan opponents considered his political career at an end, but they were mistaken. He took a leading part on many public questions, notably, that of establishing the public school system of New York City, the establishment and promotion of various institutions of science; in the improvement and modification of criminal laws, the extension of agriculture and manufactures, the relief of the poor, the improvement of morals, and many other worthy objects, in which he was in many instances the moving spirit.

All these, however, were small in comparison with



the great work upon which his fame as a public man rests, viz., the building of the Erie Canal. The history of this enterprise and the part he played in it would fill volumes. He labored with indefatigible energy, patience and hope until the great work was an accomplished fact. Through all these weary years "Clinton's folly" was the by-word of scoffers, but he never despaired, and toiled on, often against the most discouraging opposition. never giving an inch, until after a dozen years, a line of cannon stationed at intervals along the much ridiculed "ditch," awakened the people of the Empire State to the fact that the waters of lake Erie were pouring through the canal bearing on their waves the message that the great lakes were on that day wedded to the Atlantic ocean. In 1816 Governor Daniel D. Tompkins was chosen Vice-President and resigned the Governorship. Clinton was brought forth for the place. bearing not only the odium of advocating the "big ditch," and of the crushing defeat as a Presidential candidate four years before, but the additional ignominy of having been but one year before removed from the office of Mayor of New York by a council of appointment controlled by his own party. To run for Governor seemed madness, yet the marvelous power and political genius of the man gave him an easy vistory, and he was elected by a heavy majority. He was re-elected in 1820, in 1824, and in 1826. In 1822 he was out of the field, and his enemies once more celebrated his political demise, adding in the course of their two years' rule. the indignity of removing him from the office of Commissioner of the canal, then under construction. This outrage was more than the people could bear and he was once more brought forward for Governor, running against Samuel Young. The disgraced Canal Commissioner was elected by 17,000 majority. While engaged in official duties at Albany he died suddenly on February 11, 1828. Among his works are: Discourses before the New York Historical Society; Memoir on the Antiquities of Western New York; Letters on the Natural History and Internal Resources of New York; Speeches to ite Legislature, and many historic and scientific addresses.



WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD.—William H. Seward was born May 16, 1801, in the village of Florida, Town of Warwick, Orange County, New York. His father, Dr. Samuel S. Seward, was a physician of good standing and the first Vice-President of the County Medical Society. Dr. Seward was a farmer, as well as physician, and also the magistrate, storekeeper, banker and money-lender of the little village. He lived to a good old age, dying after his son's election to the United States Senate, in 1849.

The family was of New Jersey origin. John Seward, the grandfather of William Henry, served in the war of the Revolution, beginning as Captain and ending his campaign as Colonel of the First Sussex Regiment.

William Henry was the fourth of six children, and following the custom of those days, was selected as the least physically robust, to receive a college education. The village school, the academy at Goshen, a term or two in a short-lived academy at Florida, gave him his preparatory training, and at the age of fifteen, he passed the examination for the junior class at Union College, Schenectady, though the rules as to age at that institution compelled him to enter as a sophomore.

He graduated in 1820, having also spent six months of his senior year teaching in Georgia. He was admitted to the bar in 1822 and settled in Auburn, N. Y. He soon distinguished himself in his profession, and acquired a wide reputation for originality of thought and independence of action. He took an active interest in polities and in a public address he outlined the history of the so-called "Albany Regency,"—a political clique. who were in complete control of state affairs at that time. His expose of their intrigues led to their political overthrow in 1828. In 1830 he was elected to the State Senate by the Anti-Masons, who at that time were politically powerful in Western New York. He was probably the youngest man ever elected to the Senate at that period, not being quite thirty years of age. He soon became the leader of his party in that body, and was a recognized political force throughout the State. In 1834 he was a candidate for Governor but was defeated. In 1838 he was elected Governor by a large majority, and



his administration was in many ways the most remarkable in the history of the State.

In 1843, declining a renomination, he resumed his law practice in Auburn. In 1847 he was invited to speak in New York City on the life and character of Daniel O'Connell, and this is said to have been one of the most brilliant oratorical efforts of his public career.

In 1849 he was elected to the United States Senate. and at once took a prominent position in the affairs of his party, and soon thereafter was the recognized leader of the administration party. In 1850 he delivered his famous speech on the admission of California as a state, in which he made use of the expression, "there is a higher law than the Constitution," that has since acquired wide fame. Another of his felicitous phrases, which is so frequently quoted as giving character to the history of his time, is from a speech delivered in Rochester in 1858, in which he declared that there was "an irrepressible conflict between opposing and enduring forces," and that "the United States must become either entirely slave or entirely free." He was re-elected to the Senate in 1855, and the news of his re-election was received with rejoicing throughout the free states. In 1860 he was the most conspicuous candidate of the Republican party for the Presidential nomination, receiving one hundred and seventy-three votes on the first ballot. He was defeated by Mr. Lincoln, but he immediately entered the campaign and gave him his most hearty support, making many speeches throughout the West. After the election of Mr. Lincoln he was invited to become a member of his cabinet, and was appointed Secretary of State, a position which he filled for eight years with almost unparalleled industry, energy and success. During this period he negotiated nearly forty treaties, most of which were of historic importance. Without doubt his finest acts of statesmanship were his management of the Trent affair, his dignified and determined action at the time of the French invasion of Mexico, the purchase of Alaska, the last of which was an act of judgment and foresight not fully appreciated by the public for many years.

In April, 1865, while he was confined to his room



because of injuries from a fall from his carriage, President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth and at the same time another assassin, named Paine, entered the room of Mr. Seward, dangerously wounded his sou, and with a poinard, inflicted wounds upon him that at first it was thought would prove fatal but from which he slowly recovered.

In 1869 he made an extended tour of California and Alaska, and in 1870-71 he made a journey around the world and was received with distinction everywhere.

He died at his home in Auburn, October 10, 1872.

THE PURCHASE OF ALASKA

The purchase of Alaska by the United States Government during a critical period of our national history, and the part played in that transaction by Secretary Seward, was little understood by the general public at that time, and in fact, for many years afterward, vague and contradictory stories were published in the public press regarding that episode. It was made a football of political controversy in several campaigns, largely by those who were totally ignorant of the inside facts of diplomatic history. The masterly diplomacy of Secretary William H. Seward was the foundation of this adroit movement by the United States Government, and to him, more than any other single individual, undoubtedly, is due the credit of acquiring this valuable territory at a time when the government was threatened with serious difficulties with the military and naval power of England and France, who both had heavy financial interests in the Southern Confederacy, and during the negotiations for the purchase, favored recognizing the Confederate Government.

Chief Justice Paxson, of Pennsylvania, at a dinner given by the Clover Club, of Philadelphia, to Mr. Charles Emory Smith, in honor of his appointment as Minister to Russia, shortly after the close of the Civil War, unfolded a page of war history by relating some details about the sale of Alaska by the Russian Government to the United States. He said: "The United States paid \$7,200,000 in gold for this then-regarded barren and worthless country, but we did not know what was involved in the sale of what has since proved a treasure.



We were struggling in the throes of civil war, and the governments of England and France were being moved by every influence to recognize the Southern Confederacy. The acquisition of Alaska meant much to the Govern-When that sale was completed and the storms of indignation that followed Secretary Seward when he paid \$7,200,000 in gold for that frigid country, all through Europe was also heard the ominous growl of the Russian bear, which said plainer than words to England and France. 'Hands off, or we will interfere and make this a world-wide struggle.' How many knew what deep import was vested in the appearance of an entire squadron of Russian gunboats in our harbor? But Seward did. It meant this: The Admiral of that squadron was in possession of sealed orders. His orders from the Russian Government were to remain where he was until this great question that was agitating France and England was settled. Upon the instant the Confederacy was recognized by those European powers the seals were to be broken, and his orders were to report for instructions in person to President Lincoln. That was the depth of the import embodied in the acquisition of Alaska by the United States."

BENJAMIN BARKER ODELL.—Benjamin Odell, thirty-seventh Governor of the State of New York. was born at Newburgh, N. Y., January 14, 1854. He was the son of Benjamin Barker and Ophelia (Bookstaver.) Odell. He graduated from Newburgh Academy in 1874. and entered Bethany College, in Bethany, W. Va., the same year. He remained there one year, after which he entered Columbia College, New York City, where he continued until 1877. He married Estelle Crist, of Newburgh, April 25, 1877; she died in 1888. His second wife was Mrs. Linda (Crist.) Traphagen, a sister of his first wife, whom he married in 1891. He was a member of the Republican State Committee 1884-96; Chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee 1898-1900; Member of the 54th and 55th Congresses 1895-9, 17th New York District: Governor of New York, two terms, 1901-5. He died at Newburgh, N. Y., May 9, 1926, aged 72 years.





Governor of New York State, two terms, 1901-05; born January 14, 1854, died May 9, 1926.



MAJOR EDWARD CARLISLE BOYNTON.— Major E. C. Boynton, a graduate of West Point Military Academy, and for many years an instructor in that institution, is chiefly distinguished as the author of the "History of West Point and the Origin and Progress of the U.S. Military Academy," and several technical works, all of which are regarded as standard authorities on the subjects of which they treat. He was appointed as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, July 1, 1841. After graduation in 1846, he was assigned to the Second Artillery as Brevet Second Lieutenant and ordered to join the army in Mexico, where he served with General Taylor at the front of the invading force. He served at Monterey and at the seizure of Saltillo in 1846. He participated in the siege of Vera Cruz, the battles of Cerro Gardo, Contreras, Churubusco, in the seizure and occupation of Puebla and in the skirmishes at Amazoque and Oka Laka in 1847. He was severely wounded in the action at Cherubusco. He was promoted Second Lieutenant February 16, 1847, and First Lieutenant, August 20, 1847, and Brevet Captain at the same time for "gallant and meritorious services in the battles of Contreras and Cherubusco, Mexico." In 1848 he was assigned to the Military Academy at West Point as Assistant Acting Quartermaster. From August, 1848, to September, 1855, he was Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology. In 1855-56 he accompanied the expedition against the Seminole Indians in Florida. The degree of A. M. was conferred on him by Brown University in 1856. In 1856 he was appointed Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Mississippi, which position he filled until dismissed in 1861 for "want of attachment to the government of the Confederate States." He was appointed to the United States Army as Captain in 1861, and assigned to the Military Academy, first as Adjutant and then Quartermaster, remaining at that post throughout the civil war, at its close receiving the brevet of Major for faithful services. He resigned from the army in 1872, and thereafter made his home in Newburgh.

He is the author of "History of West Point and the Origin and Progress of the U.S. Military Academy,"



(1863,) which is regarded as the standard work on that subject. He is also the author of the military and naval terms in Webster's Army and Navy Dictionary, (1864;) Guide to West Point and the Military Academy; Greek Fire and Other Inflammables; Explosive Substitutes for Gunpowder: Photography as Applied to Military Purposes; Ovantitative and Qualitative Chemical Analysis of Hydraulic Limestone; Manual on Blowpipe Analysis. He discovered, compiled and published the most complete collection of Washington's Orders at Newburgh. He was an honorary member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, President, (1883-88) of the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands. He was born at Bennington, Vt., February 1, 1824, and died at his home in Newburgh on May 3, 1893.

JOEL TYLER HEADLEY .- Historian and journalist, was born Dec. 30, 1813, at Walton, Delaware County, N.Y. He died at Newburgh, N.Y., in 1897. He was the son of a Presbyterian minister settled at Walton. Early in life he determined to follow the ministry as a life work, and after graduating at Union College in 1839. he took a course in theology at Auburn Seminary. After being admitted to the ministry he was settled over a church at Stockbridge, Mass. His health failing shortly after he was compelled to relinanish his chosen profession, and in 1842 traveled in Europe. His "Letters from Italy" attracted wide attention, and on his return Horace Greeley, the veteran editor of the New York Tribune, induced him to become an associate editor of the Tribune. After a year with the Tribune he severed his connection with that paper and thereafter pursued the path of authorship, residing continuously at Newburgh until his death.

His published works are: Napoleon and His Marshals, which appeared in 1846, and was followed at various periods by Washington and His Generals; History of the War, 1812; Life of Cromwell; Life of Havelock; Life of Scott and Jackson; Sacred Mountains; Sacred Heroes and Martyrs; Headley's Miscellanier; The Imperial Guard; Chaplains and Clergy of the Revolution; The Great Rebellion; Grant and Sherman; Life



of Farragut and Our Naval Commanders; History of the Great Riots, and many other works of lesser note.

During his long life he did not lay down his busy pen until 1854, when he was elected to the New York State Assembly from the First District of Orange County. In the following year he was elected Secretary of State of New York, which office he filled with marked distinction. He did not cease active literary work until late in life, and in his declining years was active in promoting public interest in historical matters pertaining to Orange County and vicinity.

EDWARD PAYSON ROE.—Edward Payson Roe was one of Orange County's most distinguished writers. He was born in Moodna, Orange County, N. Y., in 1838, and died at his home near Cornwall on-Hudson in 1888. He is best remembered as a novelist whose works achieved great popularity in America and abroad, several of his novels being translated into foreign languages. He studied for the ministry, but illness caused him to abandon his studies while attending Williams College before graduation, but he afterward received a Bachelor's degree, studied at Auburn and Union Seminaries, and in 1862-65, was a chaplain in the volunteer service during the Civil War between the states. He was from then until 1874 pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Highland Falls, N. Y., after which he gave himself up

to lecturing, writing and fruit culture.

His first novel, "Barriers Burned Away," (1872,) was a story suggested by the great Chicago fire. This was followed by "Play and Profit in My Garden," (1873.) These two works established his reputation as a writer, and were followed in rapid succession by "What Can She Do," (1873,) "Opening a Chestnut Burr," (1874,) "From Jest to Earnest," (1875,) "Near to Nature's Heart," (1876,) "A Knight of the Nineteenth Century," (1877,) "A Face Illuminated," (1878,) "A Day of Fate," (1880.) "A Young Girl's Wooing," (1884,) "An Original Belle," (1885,) "Driven Back to Eden," (1885.) "He Fell in Love With His Wife," (1886,) "The Earth Trembled," (1887.) He also wrote "Success With Small Fruits," (1880,) and "Nature's Serial Story," (1884.)



EDWARD M. RUTTENBER.—Journalist and historian, was born in the Town of Bennington, Vt., July 17, 1824. He entered the office of the Verment Gazette as an apprentice to the printing business in 1837, and removed to Newburgh in 1838, where he became an indentured apprentice in the office of the Newburgh Telegraph, of which he became the owner in 1850. He was thereafter connected with Newburgh journalism as editor and publisher during his entire life, dying at the advanced age of 83 years on December 4, 1907, at Newburgh, N. Y. As a historian he was thorough and exhaustive, and to him, more than to any other local historian, is perhaps due the credit of preserving for future generations the vast mass of historical data relating to Orange County and the Hudson River Valley. He is the author of the following works: History of the Town of Newburgh, 1859; History of the Flags of New York Regiments, 1865; History of the Obstructions to the Navigation of the Hudson River, 1866; History of the Indian Tribes of the Hudson River, 1872; History of Orange County, 1881.

All of these works are universally regarded as standard authorities on the subjects treated and show ample evidence of his exhaustive research and ability as a writer.

DAVID HALLIDAY MOFFAT.—David H. Moffat, one of the empire builders of the great West, was born at Washingtonville, Orange County, N. Y., in the year 1839. He died in New York City on March 18, 1911. He was the youngest child of David Moffat and Catherine Gregg Moffat. The life of David H. Moffat can be properly termed one of the romances of the great Middle West, for he was connected with almost every important development between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, particularly in the vicinity of Denver. He commenced his business career as a clerk in a New York bank at twenty years of age, and in 1860, shortly after the discovery of gold at Pike's Peak. went to Denver, then a mining camp, where he established himself in the stationery business. That enterprise was first located in a tent, on the banks of Cherry Creek, where his little stock of newspapers, magazine-





DAVID HALLIDAY MOFFAT

Banker, Railroad Builder, Mine

Owner and Philanthropist, of

Denver, Colorado. Born at

Washingtonville, Orange

Co., N. Y., 1839, died

March 18, 1911.



and stationery was sold to the miners from a counter constructed by placing boards on the tops of two empty flour barrels. In a short time he was a clerk in the newly organized First National Bank of Denver, where he rose in rapid succession to the position of Cashier, and then President, a position which he held until his death. His name is inseparably connected with the mining industry of Colorado and the building of its railroad systems, in both of which he amassed a fortune of several millions of dollars. He was one of the chief promoters of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad system, and its President for many years. He built the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek Short Line Road which was constructed over mountains in many places 9.000 feet above sea level.

The greatest project of his busy life and the one of most importance to his adopted city of Denver, was the Railroad over the Rocky Mountain range, familiarly known as the Moffat Road. This road, the Denver, Northwestern and Pacific, crosses the range at an altitude of 11,600 feet, and is the highest broad guage railroad in the world. Its terminus will be Salt Lake City, some seven hundred miles west from Denver. When completed this line will shorten the distance between Chicago and San Francisco some 250 miles and reduce the running time about 24 hours less than by any other route. It enters a vast empire of natural wealth now undeveloped. The original plans called for a tunnel under the range and this has now been built. It is 6.9

miles long and its total cost was \$12,000,000.

Mr. Moffat died when his gigantic project was less than half completed, but his memory is cherished by those of the present day who regard his life work as of inestimable value to Colorado. Some forty years ago he presented his native village with a building which is used as a public hall and library, and bears the name of "Moffat Library." Shortly before his death he gave a large pipe organ to Blooming Grove Church. The State of Colrado has honored his name by naming one of its counties Moffat County, and placing a memorial window in the Senate chamber in the State Capitol at

Denver.



Celebrated Horses

back for several centuries and is chiefly confined to the early racing records in England, coupled with local tradition. Some two or three centuries ago the trotting horse was a great favorite in and about Norfolk and Yorkshire, England, and trotting races were frequent occurrences in that locality. Several authorities state, and the fact is partially borne out by early records that a trotting mare named Phenomena, owned by a horseman of Norfolk, in 1800, trotted 17 miles in 56 minutes, carrying a weight in saddle of 225 pounds. In 1806 the horse known as Pretender, is reputed to have trotted 16 miles in one hour, carrying 210 pounds. In those early days it should be borne in mind that all trotting races were made under the saddle.

The history of the American trotter extends back into early Colonial times, but all authentic records have been lost, if ever there were any of a reliable nature. and now only local tradition remains of early importations and performances. It seems certain that running horses were imported from England as early as 1625. and horses of this class are known to have been bred in Virginia and the Carolinas. The early records of the trotter go back to the early part of the nineteenth century in an imperfect way, and are principally confined to trotting performances on certain racing courses on Long Island. It is of record that in June, 1806, that a horse by the name of Yankee, under saddle, trotted a mile in 2:59 on the Harlem race course, New York. A horse from Boston is reported to have trotted a mile at Philadelphia on August 25, 1810, in harness in 2:4812.

Undoubtedly the most important source of trotting blood in America was the importations of the stallion-Messenger and Bellfounder, from whose blood the foundation of the American trotter is established.

Messenger, commonly known as Imported Messenger, was a thoroughbred, his pedigree tracing back through his sire to Flying Childers and the Darley Arabian.



RYSDYK'S HAMBLETONIAN 10



He was foaled in 1780 in England and proved a successful racer, and as a five-year-old won the King's Plate. Believing that he would do valuable service in the stud, he was imported to the United States in May, 1788. Messenger, however, though a trotting sire, had no immediate descendants that proved to be noted trotters. He secured his chief fame through his son Mambrino, a thoroughbred, that in turn, was the sire of Abdallah, a breeder of trotters. Messenger was a gray, 15% hands high, with strong loins and powerful hind-quarters. He was in stud service for twenty years in America, chiefly in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. He died January 28, 1808, leaving a lineage of

driving horses of remarkable qualities.

Bellfounder, known as Jary's Bellfounder in England, and as Imported Bellfounder in America, was foaled in 1815, and was imported from Norfolk in 1822. He was a bright bay, with black mane, tail and legs, stood 15 hands high, and was a natural trotter. At the time he was brought to America he was regarded as one of the very fastest and most powerful trotters, and is said to have trotted seventeen miles in an hour. Velocity, his dam, trotted sixteen miles in an hour on the Norwich road in 1806, while two years later she is reported to have made eighteen miles in 1 hour and 47 seconds. Thus it can be seen how a strong line of trotting blood was brought to America. Bellfounder was taken to Orange County, N. Y., where he went into stud service. Here he sired the Charles Kent mare, a most important connecting link with his American fame. Bellfounder died on Long Island in 1843.

IN THIS automobile age the history of the development of the American trotting horse is relegated to the background and there are thousands of the present generation, who, while thoroughly well informed upon the various makes of automobiles, regard the trotting horse as an animal which has passed into history—a subject which their forefathers discussed with enthusiasm—which has little interest to the rising generation. All authorities concede that the original home



of the American trotting horse is in Orange County, N. Y., in so far as scientific breeding and development are concerned, and it is to the farmers and breeders of this section that the chief credit should be given for first producing a strain of blooded horses, which for speed, intelligence, beauty and other admirable qualities has commanded the admiration of all lovers of the horse.

The development of the American driving horse began about seventy-five years ago in and about the immediate vicinity of the little village of Chester. It was in this section that the Orange County farmers began to take an interest and experiment in the breeding of horses for speed, size, intelligence, strength, disposition and exceptional qualities of endurance. And so well did they succeed that in a few years Chester became the Mecca for horsemen from all sections of the country, and to-day all the great trotting horses with but here and there a rare exception, invariably trace their ancestry back to the noted sires of Chester and vicinity, the premier of which was Rysdyk's Hambletonian.

All the great breeders of the past generation have passed to their reward, notably among which were William M. Rysdyk, Seely C. Roe, Robert Bonner, Alden Goldsmith, Charles Backman, Major Edsall, Guy Miller, and a host of others of lesser importance, not omitting nine out of every ten farmers living in the county who boasted of possessing a blooded horse that could show

marvelous speed and other good points.

The history of the development of the trotting horse in Orange County is filled with interesting episodes, both romantic and tragic, and only to relate but a small portion of it in detail would fill volumes. The history of Rysdyk's Hambletonian has been told many times by scores of writers dealing with the development of the trotting horse, and although it varies in unimportant details, in the main all writers on the subject agree.

The history of Roe's Abdallah Chief, a half-brother of Hambletonian, is equally interesting, as well as the sad fate of the sire of both these famous horses, old Abdallah, who was a son of Imported Messenger, and

a mare named Imported Sauerkraut.

Rysdyk's Hambletonian is perhaps the most cele-



brated horse in history. The pedigree of this remarkable horse is undoubtedly familiar to every horseman throughout the civilized world, for no single horse ever foaled has achieved from his own intrinsic merits such

an extensive and enduring reputation.

He was by Abdallah, the grandson of the renowned imported Messenger; his dam, the Charles Kent mare, and she by imported Bellfounder. Abdallah was kept for mares at Chester, Orange County, N. Y., in the years 1847-8 at \$20 to insure a colt. In the latter year Jonas Seeley, of the same town, owned the Charles Kent mare and bred her to the horse Abdallah. She proved with foal and on May 18, 1849, gave birth to the colt which since has become famous throughout the world under the name of Hambletonian.

The mare, with her colt by her side, was sold by Mr. Seeley to William M. Rysdyk for \$125. The price paid did not indicate that there was anything extraordinary in either the mare or the foal. The colt, however, under the careful management of its new owner rapidly improved, and was exhibited in the Fall of 1849 at the fair of the Orange County Agricultural Society at Goshen. At this exhibition he was led by the side of a horse, and equipped with a white bridle and martingale, which attracted considerable attention at the time. He was again shown at the fair of the same society at Goshen in the Fall of 1850. By the Fall of 1851, when two years old, so rapid had been his growth, that be represented in almost every particular, a fully developed horse. During that season Mr. Rysdyk allowed him to cover four mares. He got three colts from these mares, (two males and one mare,) no price being charged for this service. One of these colts shortly thereafter came into the possession of Major J. Seeley Edsall, of Goshen, and under his careful handling proved himself a superior horse. The Major kept him for mares at Goshen four years and then sold him to Mr. Alexander of Kentucky. He had, however, in the meantime, become the father of the filly so widely known throughout the country as Goldsmith's Maid. One chronicler of the remarkable career of Hambletonian remarks, "It is perhaps pertinent to observe that in Hambletonian's first season a



large percentage of his progeny were males, and that while large numbers of them have from time to time become celebrated as trotters, the reputation of the old horse as a father of trotters would scarcely arise above inediocracy were it entirely dependent upon the performance of his daughters."

In the Spring of 1852 Hambletonian was offered for service to a limited number of mares at \$25 to insure a colt. During the season he served seventeen mares and got 13 colts. In the Fall of 1852 he was taken to Long Island to be trained as a trotter, and after going through a term of three months of this kind of education he was returned to Chester without having made any public record, having been unable to withstand the severe exactions of training.

In the Spring of 1853 he was advertised for service at \$25 to insure a colt. The breeders of Orange County at this early day began to discern his fine qualities and extended to him a liberal patronage. During this scason, (1853,) he covered 101 mares and got 70 colts. His success as a stock horse was now fully established, and without any brilliant performance upon the turf, he entered upon a career never equalled in the annals of horse breeding. His record in the stud follows:

Or HOTSE Y	needing, in ice	ord in the stad i	LOLIO W.D.
	No. Mares		No.
Year	Served	Price	of Colts
1854	88	\$35	63
1855	89	35	64
1856	87	35	64
1.857	87	35	63
1858	72	35	54
1860	106	35	72
1861	98	35	68
1862	158	35	111

The brilliant performances of his colts upon the turf had now given their sire a national reputation and they were in great demand, commanded high prices, and the breeding of trotters received a new and greater impetus than ever before throughout the country. His owner naturally took advantage of this state of affairs and raised his price to \$75. At this price his record in the stud is as follows:



No. Mares			No.
Year	Served	Price	of Colts
1863	150	\$75	92
1864	217	100	· 143
1865	193	300	128
1866	105	500	75
1867	77	500	41
1868 (Retired)	*****	•••••	*****
1869	21	500	14
1870	22	500	13
1871	30	500	20

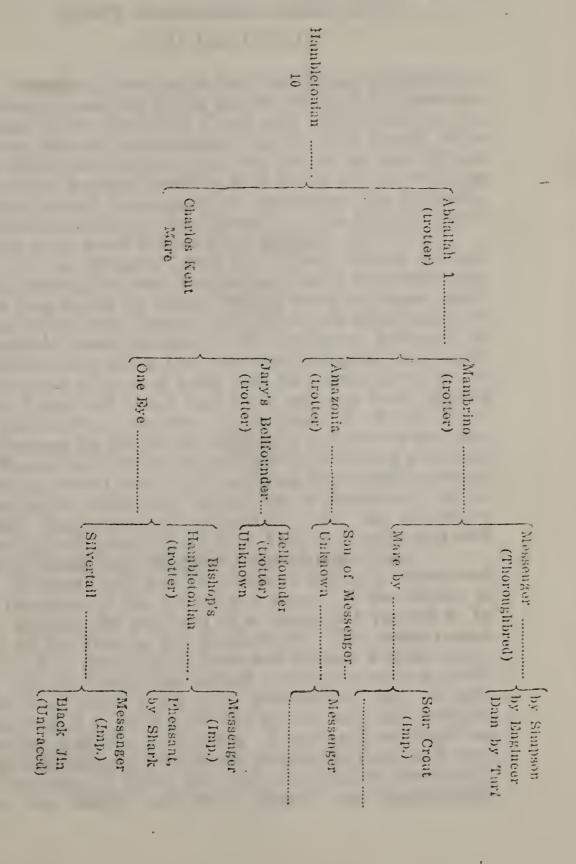
As a natural result of such a course the physical powers of the old horse became weakened in 1867 and he was retired from the stud during the season of 1868. His retirement had a highly beneficial result and he was again placed in the stud in 1869. The year 1871 ended his career in the stud, that season after serving 30 mares 70 were left unserved. He died March 27, 1876. During his years in the stud, a well-kown and recognized authority states that he sired 1,287 foals, the fees for

which totaled \$185,715.

Hambletonian 10 was a bay in color, with a star and white hind ankles, stood 15½ hands high, and was powerful in build. His head was large with pleasant eyes, his neck and shoulders strong, the body round and full, legs and feet of superior character, and he stood somewhat higher behind than in front. As a three-year-old he made a record of 2:481/2 over the Union course. He was undoubtedly the greatest progenitor in American trotting history. Among the famous sons and daughters of Hambletonian 10 are Alexander's Abdallah, Electioneer, George Wilkes, Aberdeen, Volunteer, Happy Medium, Harold, Strathmore, Dictator, Dexter, Nettie 2:18, Orange Girl 2:20, Gazelle 2:21, Jay Gould 2:211/2 and Bella 2:22. The first eight of these proved very prepotent sires, and thus demonstrated the value of their remarkable sire.



PEDIGREE OF HAMBLETONIAN 10





REMINISCENCES OF RYSDYK'S HAMBLETONIAN, ROE'S ABDALLAH CHIEF AND OLD ABDALLAH

Some few years ago a local newspaper published an interesting account of the history of Rysdyk's Hambletonian, Roe's Abdallah Chief and old Abdallah, the famous sire of these notable horses. The late H. Wisner Wood, of Chester, who was one of the last of that school of famous breeders and lovers of the trotting horse, related to a party of gentlemen the following reminisences of the way history in the trotting world

began to be made in and about Chester:

"I was present," said Mr. Wood, "when the colt that became the most celebrated sire of American trotters was foaled on Jonas Seely's farm at Sugar Loaf, three miles from Chester, and which was later known as Rysdyk's Hambletonian. All previous histories of Hambletonian make the incorrect statement that Jonas Seely took pity on a mare that he happened to see in New York, and which had been, and was being abused by her owner, a butcher, by the name of Charles Kent, whereupon he bought the mare and took her to his farm at Sugar Loaf, where he used her for breeding purposes. That statement is all right, so far as Jonas Seely's taking pity on the mare and buying her is concerned, but he didn't 'happen to see her in New York,' the fact being that he had taken her to New York originally and sold her to Kent, and naturally knew all about her.

"Jonas Scely was an extensive trader in horses and cattle along in the forties and later. In the course of his dealings he got hold of a mare that proved to be out of the famous old Bellfounder. The mare turned out to be a good family horse and became a great favorite with his family, but he had a chance to make a profitable deal with Kent and disposed of her to him. She proved to be a good one on the road and came to be known as the Kent mare. I was in New York one day some months after Kent bought the mare and went to see him. I found she had been abused shamefully. She was badly, and as it turned out, permanently



crippled. I prevailed upon Jonas to go and see her and buy her back. He did so and brought her to his Sugar Loaf farm, with the intention of leiting her spend her days there, which, from her condition, did not promise to be many.

"About that time Jonas Seely and other farmers in that neighborhood, who were interested in having good horses, induced the owner of Abdallah, the great Long Island sire of good horses, and then well along in years, to bring that horse to Chester. He came here two or three seasons, the last one being in 1848. The Kent mare had revived so under the care she had received, at her old Sugar Loaf home, that Jonas used her in the stud to breed to Abdallah. Her celt was foaled in March, 1849, and was probably the last of old Abdal-Jah's get, and was founder of the great race of trotting horses of the Rysdyk Hambletonian strain. And right here I come to the incident which determined the future career of Hambletonian and placed him in the possession of William M. Rysdyck, instead of Seely C. Roe, who later purchased a colt, which was a half-brother of Hambletonian, and became almost as celebrated as Hambletonian.

"When the colt that the Kent mare dropped in March, 1849, was two or three months old, Jonas Seely got a horse deal streak on and made up his mind to use the mare and colt in making it. He first applied to my brother, Cornelius, in Chester, and endeavored to sell the mare and colt to him, but Cornelius did not fancy them, and declined to purchase, claiming that he had all the horses he could take care of. So that deal was off, and possibly it was a fortunate thing for the future Hambletonian.

"Seely C. Roe heard that the mare and colt were in the market and went to Jonas' farm and looked at them. He thought well of them and had fully made up his mind to buy them when he returned from attending court at Newburgh. He drove to Newburgh with Dan Durland, of Chester, who was driving a mare that belonged to a man living near the New Jersey line, in the vicinity of Edenville. Dan Durland told Seely C. Roe that the mare he was driving had a colt sired by Abdal-



lah about the same age as the colt belonging to Jonas Seely. He was so favorably impressed with the performance of the mare Dan Durland was driving that he thought her colt would turn out better than the one Jonas Seely's mare had. That was a lucky turn of affairs for William M. Rysdyk, who was a farm hand at that time, with little ready cash, but he was a remarkable judge of horse fiesh. He managed to scrape up \$125, the price Jonas Seely wanted for the mare and colt, and bought them. Hambletonian was naturally a wonderful horse, but it was Rysdyk's genius in caring for and developing him that made him the marvel that he became.

"And now we come to the history of Roe's Abdallah, later known as Roe's Abdallah Chief. He was also a wonderful horse in many respects, though not as celebrated in the stud as Hambletonian. He was sired by old Abdallah. His dam was a daughter of Phillips, out of a daughter of Decatur and an unknown; Decatur was by Marske, out of a daughter of Imported Emperor; Marske was sired by Imported Diomed out of a daughter of Imported Medley. Phillips, the sire of the dam of Roe's Abdallah Chief, was sired by Duroc, out of a daughter of Imported Messenger; Duroc was sired by Imported Diomed out of Amanda; Amanda was sired by Gray Diomed out of a daughter of Old Cade and a daughter of Independence; Imported Diomed was out of a daughter of Sloe and a daughter of Vampire and Imported Calista. Thus you see that the dam of Roe's Abdallah Chief had a generous mixture of Imported Diomed blood in her veins, as well as the blood of Imported Messenger.

"I bought the colt from the Edenville owner of the mare, which Seely Roe intended to buy, paying \$250 for it, and named it Abdallah, after his sire, old Abdallah. After my folks found out what I had paid for the colt, they made a tremendous fuss about it. It was a pretty stiff price to pay for a colt, even in those days, but I had an idea that I had not made a bad bargain. My folks changed their minds a year or so later. I had bought a farm after purchasing the colt and needed money to stock it. Seely C. Roe had been casting fond



eyes on my young \$250 stallion, and after a while offered me sixty good cows for him. I accepted the offer and stocked my farm nicely, and incidentally, heard no more

about my extravagance in buying horses.

"Roe's Abdallah Chief, as he came to be known later on, was the sire of Messenger Duroc. Messenger Duroc was the famous stallion owned by the late Charles Backman, owner of Stony Ford Stock Farm, situated near Goshen, and was for years the premier stud there. His progeny was famous for beauty, strength and speed. Messenger Duroc was the sire of Prospero, 2:20, and seventeen others in the 2:30 list, also sire of the dam of Virgo Hambletonian, sire of Charlie Hogan, 2:18%; also sire of the dam of Lysander, sire of William Kearney, 2:201/2, and three others in the 2:30 list; also sire of the dam of Banker, sire of Bermuda, 2:20½, also sire of the dam of Beecher, sire of Mike, 2:28; also sire of the dam of Standard Bearer, sire of Marloe, pacer, 2:15, and three others in the 2:30 list; also sire of the dam of Ulster Belle, pacer, 2:22½, Coriander, 2:20%, and Josephine, 2:241/4. see that Roe's Abdallah Chief was the sire of a horse whose numerous progeny were celebrated for speed in their day and generation.

"I was one of the pall-bearers, so to speak, at the funeral of the Kent mare. I don't remember any mention having been made by writers on Hambletonian and his forebears about the death of his dam and the disposal of her remains. Her end came as befitted the mother of a royal line, well housed and well cared for. She died early in the fifties, about the same time, I remember, that old Abdallah, sire of the same line, came to his ignominious death. I helped to bury the Kent mare in a meadow now on the Tuttle farm, at a spot long since forgotten, perhaps, by everyone but myself. The grave of Hambletonian's dam was unmarked, but it is a few rods from and overlooked by the imposing granite shaft that marks the grave of her illustrious son, on the Rysdyk hill at Chester.

"The last days of that grand old sire, Abdallah, were pathetic in the extreme, for if there ever was an aristocrat in the horse kingdom, it was old Abdallah.



He had a royal pride and air about him that refused to be humbled even in adversity and want. After his days of usefulness in the stud were over he was sold to a fish peddler of Hempstead, Long Island, N. Y. The first time he was hitched to a fish wagon he positively refused to draw it, and promptly proceedeed to kick it to pieces, and would not permit his owner to approach him afterward. Although he was a remarkably docile and easily handled stallion, his owner had to give up trying to conquer him and he was finally turned out to die on Hempstead Plains of exposure and neglect. The crows picked the bones of this sire of a line of royal, magnificent animals, whose progeny to-day is the pride of the American trotting turf."

ALEXANDER'S HAMBLETONIAN.—This horse, familiarly known in Orange County as Edsall's Hambletonian, was one of Hambletonian's first get, having been foaled in the year 1852, out of a mare by Bay Roman, and he by Messenger. He was purchased when quite young by Major Edsall, of Goshen, and was kept by him until 1859, when he was sold to Alexander, of Lexington, Ky. During the time he was owned by Major Edsall he proved himself not only to be very speedy, but also one of the finest stock horses ever produced. It is said that during the Civil War he was stolen by the Confederates, and that Alexander offered a reward of \$1,000 for his recovery. Stimulated by this reward, parties immediately set out for his recapture and one of the pursuants, mounted upon a thoroughbred mare, succeeded in overtaking the thief, when a conflict in arms commenced, during which the stallion was accidentally shot. He was returned to his owner, the reward paid, but either from the effects of the wound, or from over exertion, he died very soon thereafter. He was the sire of Goldsmith Maid, in her day, the acknowledged Queen of the Turf; of Major Edsall, a very fast stallion, and of many other good ones not so well known.

EDWARD EVERETT.—This horse was first named Major Winfield. In consequence of the achievements of



his colts he became celebrated as a stock horse. His dam is said to have been Imported Margrave, and was formerly owned by the late Thomas George, of Orange County. He bred her to Hambletonian. Everett was the sire of two noted horses, Judge Fullerton and Joe Elliott. He was purchased by the late Robert Bonner for \$20,000.

VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEER—The stallion Volunteer, owned by Alden Goldsmith, of Washingtonville, Orange County, N. Y., was one of the earliest foals of Rysdyk's Hambletonian. He was foaled in 1854, his dam being Lady Patriot, by Patriot, a son of Patriot, by Blucher; second dam, the Lewis Hulse mare, who was a speedy trotter and runner as well. Volunteer trotted to a wagon record of 2:37. He was a remarkably handsome horse, but it is said he was rough-gaited, though what he accomplished as a sire of fast trotters will make him long remembered.

One of his first great trotters was Gloster. This horse was a bay gelding. His dam was Black Bess, by Stockbridge Chief, second dam by Mambrino Paymaster. He trotted in 2:17 at Rochester, N. Y., August 14, 1874, and this feat made him celebrated throughout the trotting world. He died in California October 30, 1874.

Among the other noted trotters sired by Volunteer were Powers, 2:21; Huntress, 2:20%; Driver, 2:19½; Bodine, 2:19¼; Alley, 2:19; Domestic, 2:20. St. Julian, who once divided honors with the celebrated Maud S., was the speediest of Volunteer's get. He was a large, handsome bay gelding, dam, Flora, by Harry Clay, 45; second dam, by Napoleon. He was driven to a record of 2:11¼ at Hartford, Conn., August 27, 1880. The producing record of Volunteer was 38 trotters and one pacer, and 41 sires and 54 dams of speed. Volunteer was a bay horse of commanding appearance, stood 15.3, and possessed unusual strength and courage. He died at Walnut Grove Farm, Orange County, N. Y., Dec. 13, 1888.



Old Taverns

County were important factors in each local community and around each the social and political life of the people centered. Licenses for the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors date from the earliest recording period. Local travel in early times required a greater number of taverns than later periods, or since the introduction of railroads. It was in these hostelries that the people gathered at their political conventions and elected their representatives to county, state and national gatherings. To record the history of even the prominent and well-known taverns of early days would require many volumes, and only brief mention can be made of the most celebrated where important events of the past were enacted.

Perhaps the most celebrated of those old public houses still standing to-day, but long since discontinued as a tavern, is what was for over one hundred years known as the old Yelverton Inn at Chester, which is now used as a residence, and is in an excellent state of preservation. The Yelverton Inn was owned by the Yelverton family for six generations in direct line; John (emigrant, before 1700,) John, Jr., Abijah, Anthony, John H. and Thomas. Since 1869 this property has been

in the possession of the Durland family.

Early records state that Philip Rockby sold his undivided interest in the Wawayanda Patent in 1704 to Daniel Cromline and two others. Again, Hendrick Tenevek, in 1704, sold his undivided interest in the same patent to Cromline, and ten years later Cromline sold two-thirds of his purchase to Messrs. Everett and Clews, retaining one-third, or 1,706 acres, English measure. This is the tract of land which is now the township of Chester, embracing the site on which Cromline made a settlement. In 1716 he erected the first dwelling which he called Greycourt. This building was located on the road from Chester to Craigville, not far from the Greycourt Cemetery, and was known as the Cromline House, or the Greycourt Inn. It was probably the main public building between New Windsor and New Jersey prior



John Yelverton, of New Windsor, came to this section, and later purchased land and erected dwellings thereon. The original deed, recorded by his grandson and executor, Abijah Yelverton, conveys three parcels of land in Goshen to John Yelverton in trust for a "parsonage, minister's house and a burying place; also to build a meeting house thereon or public edifice for the worship of God in a way and manner of those of the Presbyterian persuasion." The meeting house mentioned has reference to the Goshen Presbyterian Church of 1720.

Around this old inn some of the most important events of Revolutionary days occurred. It was from this inn, while Abijah Yelverton was the innkeeper, that the first delegate was sent to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. On Sept. 3, 1774, a meeting of the inhabitants of the precincts of Goshen and Cornwall were assembled in Chester and Henry Wisner, by a majority of votes, was sent to the Continental Congress held in Philadelphia to protest against unjust taxation. During the month of December, 1776, it was stirring times about the Yelverton Inn for the militia of Orange and Ulster counties gathered at the square in Chester on their way to join Generals Lee and Gates.

General Washington and many of the prominent officers of the Revolutionary army frequently stopped at this celebrated inn on their journeys from the Hudson River to New Jersey. General Washington was entertained there while on his way from Philadelphia to join the main army at the Hudson River on July 27, 1782, which fact is recorded in his expense account filed

at Washington.

In 1785 disputes over the boundaries of the Wawayanda and Cheesecock Patents arose because of the indefinite descriptions of those tracts of land. The Wawayanda patentees claimed that their line was on top of the Schunnemunk and Warwick Mountains. As late as 1754 the Minisink and Wawayanda patentees had a strife before the Colonial Council, and it can thus be seen that the bounds of those Patents were very indefinite. It became necessary to settle the boundaries as the titles of many homes were at stake and a hearing



was held at Chester from May to October, 1785. The record shows that the hearing was held in the barn of the Yelverton Inn, as it provided more space for the proceedings. Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr were the attorneys for the Wawayanda patentees, and during their stay at Chester were quartered at the Yelverton Inn.

In commemoration of the historic events enacted in and about this old Inn the Minisink Chapter of the D. A. R. of Goshen, has placed a bronze tablet on the building which was unveiled in June, 1927. It is inscribed as follows:

1765

1927

YELVERTON INN BUILT IN 1765

USED AS A TAVERN FOR 67 YEARS AND OCCUPIED BY SIX GENERATIONS OF THE YELVERTON FAMILY AMONG DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

ENTERTAINED WERE GEORGE WASHINGTON

ALEXANDER HAMILTON AND AARON BURE
THIS TABLET ERECTED BY
MINISINK CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
JUNE 13, 1927

The old Morrison tavern in the Town of New Windsor, about two miles West of Little Britain Church, was in its day an important and famous tavern in Revolutionary times, but has long since disappeared.

Another well-known tavern of those early days was Rock Tavern and distillery, a short distance west of Morrison Tavern. There were also many well-known taverns in Montgomery, Walden, Goshen, Monroe, Washingtonville, and other places, but the days of their glory have passed and they are only a memory for the changes of time and the National Constitution have brought about many radical changes in our modes of living and habits, which those of other days never dreamed could be brought about.



